

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3957
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2014
UPLOADING RTI APPLICATIONS
Mani Shri Jose K.

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has directed all the Ministries/Departments to upload applications on their websites received under the Right to Information (RTI);
- (b) whether several RTI activists and legal experts have expressed fear that this process may reveal applicants name and details; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken to ensure safety of RTI applicants?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office.
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a): A facility to upload the reply of RTI applications and first appeals on the respective website of the Ministry/Department has been started from 31st October, 2014 vide Office Memorandum No. 1/1/2013-IR dated 21/10/2014 of this Department. All the Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India have been requested to upload the reply to RTI application and first appeal on their respective websites, except the replies relating to the personal information of an individual, if they do not serve any public interest.

(b): There is report in the media that some RTI activists and legal experts have expressed their apprehension that the said Office Memorandum of this Department may result in disclosure of applicants' names.

(c): In the said Office Memorandum of this Department itself, Ministries/Departments have been asked not to upload the replies relating to the personal information of an individual, if they do not serve any public interest. Moreover, vide Office Memorandum No. 1/31/2013-IR dated 08/01/2014, a copy of the judgement (order) of the Hon'ble High Court of Kolkata in writ petition number 33290 of 2013 in the case of Avishek Goenka Vs. Union of India was circulated to all Ministries/Departments of Government of India and Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs, wherein the Hon'ble High Court has directed to circulate the copy of its order so that the (public) authority can take appropriate measure to hide information with regard to personal detail of the activist to avoid any harassment by the persons having vested interest.