

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 29.07.2010

ANSWERED ON

THREAT TO PEOPLE USING RTI ACT .

70

Shri V. Hanumantha Rao

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

- (a) whether despite an increase in threats to people using Right to Information Act for exposing corruption, CIC has admitted that it neither has any mechanism in place nor any guidelines to safeguard the interests of such activists;
- (b) if so, whether in the absence of guidelines or a clear law it is left to the Information Commissioner to take up the matter with local police on condition of anonymity;
- (c) if so, whether in a number of cases in various States, threat calls were used to deter people to expose corruption in various agencies; and
- (d) if so, by what time a specific law will be put in place to protect RTI activists?

ANSWER

Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (d) :A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 70 by Shri V. Hanumantha Rao for 29.07.2010 regarding 'Threat to people using RTI Act'

(a) to (d): The Chief Information Commissioner has categorically denied making such admission as referred to in Part (a) of the question. However, there have been reports in the media and Government has been informed about increased threat to RTI activists. Such incidents when reported are investigated by the local police. While a bill to protect persons who make public interest disclosures is nearing finalization, there is no proposal before the Government to frame a specific law to protect RTI activists.