

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
(DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2214
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2021)

PENDENCY OF RTI APPEALS IN SICs/CIC

2214 SHRI JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the pendency of RTI appeals in State Information Commissions (SICs) and Central Information Commission (CIC) have been rising during the past few years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the steps undertaken by Government to clear backlog;
- (c) whether there is a lack of enabling infrastructure or any other reasons that cause a delay in disposal of appeals by SICs/CIC, if so, the steps taken in this regard; and
- (d) the steps being taken to create improved awareness about RTI Act among the disadvantaged communities?

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): The year-wise pendency of RTI appeals during the last three years in Central Information Commission (CIC) is as below:

Year	Pendency as on 31st March of the given year
2019-20	35178
2020-21	38116
2021-22 As on 06-12-2021	32147

As far as State Information Commissions (SICs) are concerned, the requisite data is maintained by the respective State.

(b) & (c): The Government has, taken several steps like capacity building through training and issuance of guidelines for Public Information Officers and First Appellate Authorities, so as to enable them to supply information/dispose of first appeal effectively, resulting into less number of appeals to the Information Commission. The Government has also issued clarificatory orders impressing upon the public authorities to disclose maximum information proactively so that citizens need not resort to filing of RTI applications to access information available with the public authorities.

(d): The Department is implementing an Annual Programme “Improving Transparency and Accountability in Government through Effective Implementation of RTI Act” wherein State Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs) and State Information Commissions (SICs) have been given financial assistance for awareness generation on RTI by taking up various activities which may include nukkad nataks, use of local folk troupes, development of publicity material in local languages, distance learning programmes, online certificate courses in regional languages, etc.
