

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 920
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023)

THIRD-PARTY AUDIT UNDER RTI ACT, 2005

920 DR. ASHOK BAJPAI:

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

- (a) the number of public authorities which could not get their third-party audit of information under the RTI Act conducted during the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether any action was taken against the public authorities which failed to get their third party audit as above despite the directives of Government;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of the grades attained by the public authorities who got their third party audit of information under the RTI Act during the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022?

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) to (c): It is the obligation and responsibility of the Public Authorities to undertake the suo motu disclosure as mandated under Section 4(1)(b) of the RTI Act, 2005.

In terms of Section 4(2) of the RTI Act, it shall be a constant endeavour of every public authority to take steps to provide as much information suo motu to the public at regular intervals through various means of communications, including internet, so that the public have minimum resort to the use of this Act to obtain information.

With a view to ensuring implementation of the provisions of Section 4 of the RTI Act, 2005, initial guidelines were issued vide O.M. No. 1/6/2011-IR dated 15.04.2013 and were subsequently amended in 2016 and 2019 when the guidelines were consolidated and stated in a comprehensive manner. Guidelines were further amended in 2022. These guidelines, inter-alia, provide for third party audit of proactive disclosure by Public Authority. Central Information Commission (CIC) has also prepared a software for transparency audit to facilitate the Public Authorities (PAs) to conduct third party audit.

Ensuring the implementation of the provisions of the RTI Act and compliance of directions issued by the GoI thereon from time to time in letter and spirit is also the obligation of such Public Authorities.

(d): The details of grades attained by the Public Authorities subsequent to the carrying out Third party audit exercise of their proactive disclosure made under Section 4 of the RTI Act is available in the annual report of the Central Information Commission for the corresponding year and is accessible at its official website i.e. www.cic.gov.in .
