

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3932  
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006  
REVIEWING WORKING OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT  
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has reviewed the working of the right to Information Act;
- (b) if so, the findings in this regard;
- (c) whether the Central Information Commission has given questionable ruling by endorsing a proposal to prescribe a standard format for the purpose of making an application;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the decision is contrary to the provisions of the Act;
- (f) if so, the steps taken to correct the anomaly;
- (g) the details of the names of States that have constituted or yet to constitute Information Commission; and
- (h) the details of the services being rendered by the Information Commission?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.(SHRI SURESH PACHOURI)

(a) and (b): The Right to Information Act, 2005 has come into force only on 12th October, 2005. It is too early to review the working of the Act.

(c), (d), (e) and (f): The Central Information Commission in its decision No. CIC/C/2006, dated 16-1-2006 had held that a public authority was not precluded from prescribing standard format for the purpose of making the application for ease of reference and response. However, this decision was reviewed by the Commission on 08/02/2006, when it held that it is incumbent upon any public authority prescribing a format that it remains simple and comprehensible as well as accessible to common folk. The Commission has further clarified that the applications for information on plain paper are also to be received and replied within the prescribed time limit.

(g): According to the information available, State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujrat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have appointed Chief Information Commissioners.

States of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Mizoram and Sikkim are yet to make such appointments.

(h): The Information Commission performs functions as assigned to it under the Right to Information Act, 2005.