

- (c) the posts being held presently by these officials in the country; and
- (d) the action taken by Government to investigate the allegations so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Indian Ambassador in USA has informed the Government that several references regarding illegal payments to the officials in India have been made in the US report on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and Anti-corruption Enforcement for the second half of 2008 and early part of 2009.

(b) to (d) The following companies are alleged to have made improper payments to some Indian officials :

- (i) M/s Richard Morlok and Mario Covino (Control companies Inc.)
- (ii) M/s Pioneer Friction Ltd.;
- (iii) M/s York International Corporation;
- (iv) M/s DE-Nocil Crop protection Ltd.;
- (v) M/s Pride International Inc.

The details of officers including their name has not been mentioned in the report.

From the said US report, it infers that the officials belong to the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Defence, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Revenue and Government of Maharashtra. In view of the report of improper payment to a key official in Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, Faridabad by DE-Nocil, a subsidiary of Dow Chemicals, an inquiry was ordered by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation into the matter and a case was registered by CBI in 2007 against Dr. Ratan Lal Rajak and others for obtaining illegal gratification to the tune of US\$ 32,000 approximately for expediting registration of 3 of its products. On completion of investigation, charge sheet has been filed against Dr. R.L. Rajak and Satyabroto Banerji on 10.11.2009 in the court of Special Judge, Ambala, Haryana.

The Ministry of Defence have constituted a Board of Officers for investigating the allegations pertaining to Indian Navy. The Ministry of Railways have suspended business dealings with M/s Pioneer Friction Ltd., Kolkata and M/s Webtec, USA.

Threat to people using RTI

1253. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the increased incidents of threats to people using Right to Information (RTI) Act for exposing corruption;
- (b) whether the Central Information Commission (CIC) has received any such complaints from any RTI activist;

- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any mechanism in place or any guidelines to safeguard the interests of such activists;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, some reports have appeared in the media about threat to people using the Right to Information Act.

(b) and (c) Yes, the Central Information Commission has received some complaints of harassment from the citizens for filing applications under the Right to Information Act. Details of these are given below:

- (1) Shri Mahmood Khan Vs BSNL in case no. CIC/AD/C/2009/000883
- (2) Shri Dhananjay Tripathi Vs BHU in case no. CIC/OK/A/2006/00163
- (3) Shri Mujibur Rehman Vs South Eastern Coalfields Ltd., Chhattisgarh in case No. CIC/AT/A/2006/00040
- (4) Shri Manish Bhatnagar Vs CBI in case no. CIC/WB/C/2010/000061
- (5) Dr. Amitabh Kumar Vs ITBP in case no. CIC/WB/C/2009/00258 and 2591
- (6) Shri K. Nandakumar Vs Southern Railway, Chennai in case no. CIC/OP/C/2009/000016-AD
- (7) Shri Rajiv Kumar Vs IIT, Kharagpur in case no. CIC/SG/C/2010/000001

(d) to (f) CIC has enquired into these complaints of harassment and passed appropriate orders. Legal mechanism of IPC and CrPC Acts are available for handling case of harassment/threat.

Amendment in RTI Act

1254. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there were differences over amendments to the Right to Information Act, notwithstanding the Prime Minister initiated the process of revising the Act;
- (b) whether high-powered committee headed by the Prime Minister recently decided to seek the views of all Ministries and Departments in Government with regard to the future of the RTI Act;
- (c) if so, whether the committee also decided to set up a five years roadmap for the future of the Act;
- (d) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been taken; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?