

charter stating therein the time within which specified goods shall be supplied and services be rendered and provide for a grievance redressal mechanism for non compliance of citizens charter and matter connected therewith or incidental thereto. The draft Bill has been placed on the website of Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances on 2nd November, 2011 inviting public comments. Views from Central Ministries/Departments, and State Governments have also been sought. These views would be considered before introducing the Bill in the Parliament for enactment.

Expanding the domain of RTI Act

†1776. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been greater transparency in the working of administration after enforcement of Right to Information Act in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Ministers of many States have been urged to extend the purview of this Act; and

(d) if so, whether Government would extend the scope of this Act to cover the Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects and the corporate world as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is the view of the Central Government that the Right to Information Act, 2005 has contributed to improvement in transparency and accountability in the functioning of Government.

(c) No reference from any Chief Minister has been received in this regard.

(d) The RTI Act, 2005 is applicable to public authorities as defined under Section 2(h) of the Act, which include bodies owned, controlled or substantially financed by the Government and non-Government organizations substantially financed directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government. Further, as per Section 2(f) of the Act, information relating to any private body, which can be accessed by public authority under any other law for the time being in force, is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

already within the purview of the RTI Act, 2005. Any information about Public Private Partnership arrangement which can be disclosed under the RTI Act may be accessed through the Public Authority which has entered into the said arrangement.

District-wise allocation of budget

1777. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Ministry would allocate District-wise budget for any State from its annual budget for various schemes in India, so that allocated annual budget for various parameters of planning could not be diverted to other categories and other Districts, within any State and any change in the utilisation of sanctioned budget or reallocation of unused budget should be decided exclusively by the Planning Commission of India; and

(b) if not, detailed reasons for not implementing the budget allocation in the above said crucial manner specially in this advanced stage of computerisation of planning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The annual budget of the Ministry of Planning includes *inter-alia* allocations for the New Initiatives in Skill Development through Public Private Partnership, National Rainfed Area Authority, Programme Evaluation Organisation, Economic Advisory Council, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Grants-in-Aid to Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Plan Accounting & Public Finance Management Systems, Plan Formulation, Appraisal & Review, UNDP Assistance for Capacity Development for District Planning and Grants-in-Aid to Universities and Research Institutions. Most of these allocations are for institutions and organizations engaged in research, training, evaluation, development of IT based monitoring systems, etc. Hence, funds are not allocated district-wise.

The planning and development of an area within a State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. Planning Commission approves the Annual Plans of the States as a whole, which are financed through Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Additional Central Assistance (ACA) and the State's Own Resources and hence funds are allocated to the States in this case. Further, Central Government, on its part, supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Area Programmes, Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Flagship programmes.