

1	2	3
33.	Uttarakhand	7555
34.	West Bengal	3351
TOTAL		238818

Conference of State Minister

1758. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of Conference of State Ministers with the Ministry held during the last three years and the outcome thereof;
- (b) whether any consensus was evolved in the said conference; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with implementation of its recommendations, if any?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO) : (a) to (c) A meeting was convened under the Chairmanship of Minister of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, on 27.02.2012 to consider the report of the Task Force constituted by this Ministry to suggest measures for strengthening the institution of State Election Commission (SEC) and related matters. Few Ministers, representatives/officers from many States/UTs attended the meeting. The deliberations in the meeting were held about the issues related to bestowing appropriate status to the State Election Commissioner, giving sufficient financial and administrative powers to SECs for ensuring their autonomy and independence, availability of unhindered and requisite funds to SECs, adopting the method of e-voting particularly in elections to Municipalities etc. The States are to take necessary action keeping in view, inter-alia, the statutory provision in their PR Acts including amendment of the same and the possibilities for implementing the recommendations of the Task Force.

People Killed while expressing Right to Information

1759. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that some people are killed while expressing their right to information;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry has record of such killings; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

media report that some people have been killed allegedly while expressing their right to information.

(b) No, Sir. Data is not centrally maintained.

(c) The framework of existing law such as Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code etc. is considered adequate to provide for safety and security to all citizens, including RTI activists. Further, RTI Activists and whistleblowers will also get protection under the “Whistle Blowers Protection Bill, 2011” passed by the Lok Sabha on 27.12.2011 and is presently in the Rajya Sabha.

Maintenance of law and order and providing safety and security for all citizens is primarily the subject matter of State Government concerned. Government of India has drawn the attention of State Governments to the reports appearing in the media about the victimization of people, who use RTI to expose corruption and irregularities in administration. The States have been requested that if any such instance comes to their notice, it should be promptly inquired into and action taken against the offenders.

Cases of RTI with CIC

1760. SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases under RTI Act, 2005 registered with Central Information Commission (CIC) during 2011 and 2012, so far;

(b) the number of cases disposed off and pending during 2011 and 2012, so far, State-wise and month-wise;

(c) whether CIC is running short of adequate commissioners to dispose off the complaints;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of other measures taken by Government to sharpen and improve the RTI Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) The Central Information Commission registered 28,875 and 28,619 number of appeals/complaints during 2010-11 and 2011-12 (upto 31st January, 2012) respectively.

(b) The details indicating receipt, disposal and pendency of appeals/complaints with the Central Information Commission are given in Statement (*See below*). State-wise date is not maintained.