

**Rules for implementation of RTI ACT**

179. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the report that various high courts in the country have prescribed rules for implementation of RTI Act in violation of the parent Act, making the implementation of the new difficult; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Sections 27 and 28 of the RTI Act, 2005 empower the appropriate Governments and the competent authorities respectively to make rules to carry out the provisions of the Act. State Governments and High Courts have prescribed their own rules under the above provisions.

(b) The 2nd Administrative Reforms Commissions in its 1st report titled 'Right to Information: Master Key to Good Governance' had *inter-alia* recommended that States may be required to frame Rules regarding application fee which are in harmony with the Central Rules. It needs to be ensured that the fee itself does not become a disincentive. Accordingly, the Central Government *vide* its communication No. 1/5/2011-IR dated 26.04.2011 has requested the Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs, where the Act is applicable, the Registrars of all the High Courts and the Registrar of the Supreme Court to review their Fee Rules and to prescribe fee in consonance with the fee prescribed by the Government of India.

**L-1 visa to Indian employees**

180. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of L-1 visas granted to Indian employees for working in US has declined significantly by 28 per cent in 2011 from 2010;

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

(c) the steps being taken to increase such visas to help Indian employees in US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) A report compiled by an independent organization, the National Foundation for American Policy in November 2011, states that the L-1