

respect of various functionaries etc. In this regard, the study recommended measures for improving awareness on right to information; improving convenience in filing information requests; improving efficiency of the Information Commissions, enhancing accountability and clarity of various stakeholders, etc.

(c) The Act provides for imposition of penalty on the public information officer in case the information is not supplied within the stipulated time frame. It ensures timely supply of information.

(d) The Government has taken steps to build the capacity of the demand and supply side through training, on-line certificate course, and publication of guides on the Right to Information Act. Awareness Generation has been undertaken through print, electronic, outdoor media and workshops. An RTI Logo has been designed and propagated widely. Apart from this, a clarificatory order was also issued vide OM No. 1/18/2007-IR dated 21st September, 2007 impressing upon the public authorities to disclose maximum information proactively so that citizens need not resort to filing of RTI applications to access information available with the public authorities.

Disposal of appeals by Senior Citizens

2102. SHRI RANBIR SINGH PARJAPATI:

PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether appeals filed by senior citizens are taken by Central Information Commissioner (CIC) on priority basis as per their Notification No. CIC/Legal/2007/006 dated 13 February, 2008;

(b) the action taken by CIC on the applications filed by senior citizens during June, 2012 requesting for early hearing in respect of appeals and complaints filed by them;

(c) whether the importance of seeking information is lost when the information is not furnished within a reasonable period of time by public authorities; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to fix time limit for deciding second appeals by CIC to make RTI Act more useful and significant?

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

Information Commission accords priority to the appeals/complaints filed by senior citizens and physically challenged persons in terms of notification No. CIC/Legal/2007/2006 dated 13 February, 2008 and resolution passed vide its minutes dated 13.12.2011.

(b) The decision to accord priority is taken by the Information Commissioner concerned and reasons for giving priority are recorded while adjudicating the case. The data on individual cases filed by senior citizens is not maintained by the Commission.

(c) The Act has inbuilt appeal/complaints mechanism along with penalty provision to ensure timely supply of information.

(d) There is no proposed to fix time limit for deciding second appeal by the Commission.

Rules for government servant contesting election

†2103. SHRI RANBIR SINGH PARJAPATI:

PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Central Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 1964, no Government servant, except with the prior approval of Government, could contest election in cooperative societies. Residents Welfare Association (RWA) etc. or hold an elected post;

(b) if a Government servant violates this rule, whether his election would be treated as illegal and he would have to relinquish his elected post;

(c) whether any disciplinary action can also be taken against him;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the penalty prescribed in CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 if a Government servant receives gift without obtaining previous sanction of Government?

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

(b) Competent Authorities in the entities are required to take necessary action under the provisions of their bye-laws/regulations.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.