

(b) whether Government has prepared a plan to help retiring employees transit smoothly to their post retirement period;

(c) whether Government has also initiated a pre-retirement counseling as many are unable to settle into a retired life after years of active service; and

(d) whether one of the suggestions before Government is to use them for evaluation of development schemes in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) As per the information received from various Ministries, around 1.75 lakhs employees retire from Central Government every year.

(b) to (d) Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare has launched an initiative on a pilot basis for 2000 pensioners to help in the individual in transiting smoothly to a post retirement life and to channelize energy, experience and skill of retired and retiring Government personnel into meaningful voluntary work. Various options are being offered to the pensioners for useful interventions in society.

One of the components under the initiative, is to conduct pre-retirement counseling workshop to help the retiring Central Government civil employees to transit smoothly into post retirement phase. The workshop focuses upon the following aspects (i) formalities necessary for timely payment of retirement benefits (ii) motivation for post retirement activities and (iii) CGHS facilities after retirement (iv) advice on financial matters, etc.

RTI related deaths

2124. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of RTI related deaths occurred in the country so far, the details thereof, year and State/UT-wise; and

(b) whether any assessment has been done on the effectiveness of RTI and whether it has served its intended purpose, the details thereof and the fate of RTI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) There are some unconfirmed media reports that some people have been killed allegedly due to their role as RTI activists.

(b) A study was conducted during the year 2008-2009 through an independent

organization to assess the key issues and constraints in implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The report on the implementation of the RTI Act, 2005 points out that there was inadequate planning by the public authorities in regard to supply of information; awareness about the Act in rural areas is much less than in urban areas; awareness amongst women is much less than men; the gap in implementation of the Act is because of lack of clear accountability in 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.

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 also been designed and propagated widely. The Government apart from a number of clarificatory orders has also issued an OM No. 1/18/2007-IR dated 21st September, 2007 and 1/6/2011-IR dated 15th April, 2013 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.

Mistake in Hindi translation in exam conducted by UPSC in August, 2014

†2125. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been complaints regarding mistakes in the Hindi translation in the exam conducted by UPSC for selection to IAS, IPS and IFS in August, 2014;

(b) if so, whether a committee was constituted to look into these complaints and also to address the same;

(c) whether Government has received the report of the committee, if so, the major recommendations of the committee; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that the future of Hindi belt students is not spoiled due to mistake in the Hindi translation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government has received a few representations on the issue of Hindi Translation of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.