

Status of draft Privacy Bill

1380. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is working on the draft Privacy Bill that implements the recommendations of the Justice A.P Shah Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of the draft Bill; and

(c) by when would Government be ready to put this Bill in the public domain to facilitate a public consultation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The drafting of the 'Right to Privacy' bill is at preliminary stage and details of the bill are yet to be finalized.

Harassment of whistle blower

1381. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the whistle blowers continue to face life threats and harassment for raising voice against irregularities in Government departments, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Central Vigilance Commission told the Supreme Court that many Government officials had complained of being harassed for exposing the alleged malpractices in their department and they were being punished by the way of transfer and other departmental proceedings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to protect whistle blowers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) As informed by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), the Commission, from time to time received complaints/representations alleging harassment/life threat for making disclosure under Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers (PIDPI) Resolution, 2004 regarding irregularities in various Government Ministries/Departments/Organisations. However, the CVC as Designated Agency under PIDPI Resolution, 2004 has not come across any confirmed incident of victimization/harassment/life threat of the complaint during the last three years.

Complaints regarding harassment are sent by the Central Vigilance Commission to concerned organization with an advice to give protection to the complainant and regarding life threat the matter is referred to the agency concerned nominated by the Ministry of Home Affairs with an advice to give protection.

(b) and (c) The CVC has furnished list of complaints alleging harassment to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. As per the directions of the Supreme Court in W.P. (C) 93 of 2004 titled 'Parivartan and Ors vs Union of India', the details were furnished from time to time in a sealed cover to the Hon'ble Court, last on 26.02.2016.

Under PIDPI Resolution, the Chief Vigilance officers of the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India have been authorized as the Designated Authority to receive written complaint or disclosure on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies or local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government and falling under the jurisdiction of that Ministry or the Department.

The CVOs in the Ministries or Department, either on the application of the complainant or on the basis of the information gathered, is of the opinion that either the complainant or the witnesses needs protection, they shall take up the matter with the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), of issuing appropriate directions to the authorities concerned.

Wherever the complainant has alleged victimization/harassment the 'Designated Authority' should ensure that if the identity of the complainant somehow becomes known he/she should not be harassed/victimized by way of frequent transfers etc.

In case a complainant seeks protection and reports that his life is in danger, the 'Designated Authority' would examine the same and send his recommendation to the CVC to take up the matter with the Nodal officers of respective States/UTs appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs/State Governments for the purpose of providing security cover to the whistle blowers.

CIC making exhaustive information public

1382. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Information Commission (CIC) has prepared an exhaustive information that can be made public, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether to prevent misuse of sensitive information, a system of access that can be monitored by people providing details, has been put in place; and