

Sl. No.	Ministry/Department	A(G)*	B(G)	B(NG)	C(NG)\$	Total
72.	Water Resources	430	1003	1117	2072	4622
73.	Women and Child Development	21	8	57	107	193
74.	Youth Affairs and Sports	5	31	26	123	185
TOTAL		16570	31596	50168	323324	421658

*Includes some non-gazetted posts also.

**Sanctioned strength/In position are provisional.

***Including HUPA.

\$Erstwhile Group D Posts have been categorized as Group C after implementation of 6th CPC

Implementation of RTI Act

1276. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of Right to Information (RTI) Act;
- (b) whether any assessment has been made about the implementation of RTI Act, if so, the findings of the same;
- (c) whether the Ministry is aware that pending appeals under RTI have gone up from 6,917 in 2009 to 37,878 in 2015, if so, whether the pendency is defeating the objective of RTI; and
- (d) how the Ministry is planning to reduce the pendency and also bring in more transparency in disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 provides for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority.

(b) A study was conducted through an independent organization to assess the key issues and constraints in implementation of the provisions of Right to Information Act, 2005. The study, *inter-alia*, points out that awareness about the RTI Act in rural areas is less than in urban areas; awareness amongst women is much less than men; the gap in implementation of the RTI Act is because of lack of clear accountability in respect of various functionaries etc. 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) and (d) informed by the Central Information Commission (CIC), as on 21.07.2016, there are 28689 appeals and complaints pending in the Commission for disposal.

For speedy disposal of pending cases the Government has taken several steps like capacity building through training and issue of guidelines for Public Information Officers and First Appellate Authorities, so as to enable them to supply information/dispose of first appeal effectively, resulting into less number of appeals to the Information Commission.

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.

Further, *vide* O.M.s. dated 29.06.2015 and 30.06.2016, the Government has accepted recommendations of the expert committee consisting of Shri A. N. Tiwari, former Chief Information Commissioner and Dr. M. M. Ansari, former Information Commissioner, consisting *inter-alia* of measures to further strengthen implementation of Section 4 of RTI Act, 2005.

Government has launched a RTI web portal www.rtionline.gov.in to facilitate citizens for filling of online RTI applications and first appeals w.e.f. 21st August, 2013. The advantages of RTI online portal are:

- (i) Tracking of disposal by citizens and authorities
- (ii) Ease in sending replies by PIOs
- (iii) Facility to review and monitor pendency by Public Authorities
- (iv) Swift transfer of RTI applications/appeals to appropriate PIOs/FAAs.

Since 25.02.2016, the CIC is working with Chief Information Commissioner and maximum possible number of ten Information Commissioners.

Appointment of Lokpal

1277. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Lokpal has been appointed in India, if not, the reasons therefor;