

(b) and (c) As per the Right to Information Act, 2005 it is mandatory on the part of Public Information Officer either to provide the information or reject the request for any of the reasons specified by the RTI Act within 30 days of receipt of the request. However, information concerning life or liberty of a person has to be provided in forty-eight hours of the receipt of request.

Similarly, as per the RTI Act, an appeal shall be disposed of within 30 days on the receipt of the appeal by the First Appellate Authority or within such extended period not exceeding a total of 45 days from the date of filing thereof, as the case may be, for reasons to be recorded in writing.

The Act, however, does not prescribe time limit for disposal of 2nd appeal/complaint by the Central Information Commission.

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 'First Appeals' and 'Appeals' to the Information Commission.

The Government from time to time has issued instructions impelling upon the Public Authorities to disclose maximum information proactively so as to reduce the need for filing RTI applications by the citizens.

#### **Concluding corruption cases**

1041. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fight against corruption is not so encouraging as corruption cases constitute just 0.06 per cent of total crimes during the last 15 years as per the study conducted by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is not even a single conviction in five States in the last 15 years;

(c) whether the acquittal is 100 per cent in three States; and

(d) if so, how the Ministry looks at these figures and what plans it has to bring corruption cases to their logical end?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) A report on the study conducted by Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) on 'Government's Efforts

to Combat Corruption' based on National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Statistics of total crime in the last 15 years, *i.e.* 2001-2015, is available on the website of CHRI.

It is pertinent to mention that the Government has not entrusted any such study to CHRI.

As informed by CBI, during the year 2016, out of 925 cases (Regular Cases) registered by CBI, 673 cases were registered under Prevention of Corruption Act which is 72.7%.

(b) and (c) No Centralised data is maintained regarding conviction in cases where procedure is launched by agencies of State Government

(d) The Central Government is fully alive and committed to implement its policy of "Zero Tolerance against Corruption" and has taken several measures to combat corruption and improve the functioning of the Government. These *inter alia* include:—

- (i) Enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005;
- (ii) Enactment of Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013;
- (iii) Enactment of Whistle-blowers Protection Act, 2011;
- (iv) Issue of Instructions by the CVC asking the organizations to adopt Integrity Pact in major procurement activities; State Governments have also been advised to adopt Integrity Pact in major procurements;
- (v) Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedure and systems;
- (vi) Issue of Citizen Charters;
- (vii) Ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2011;
- (viii) Placing of details of immovable property returns of all Members of the All India Services and other Group 'A' officers of the Central Government in the public domain; and
- (ix) Setting up of 92 additional Special Courts exclusively for trial of CBI cases in different States.

#### **Training of IAS officers**

1042. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1057 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November 2016 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a capacity to train only 180 IAS probationers in the country resulting in increasing the gap between requirement and existing strength of IAS officers; and