



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

General Administration (Co-ordination) Department

CIRCULAR

No. 69090 Udu 5/2010 GAD

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 14th October, 2010.

Sub RTI Act 2005 Reports about the victimization of people who use RTI to expose corruption and irregularities in administration
Prevention Instructions issued—Regarding.

Ref The D. O. Letter No. F. 1/15/2010-IR dated 25-8-2010 from Shri Prithviraj Chavan, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC) for Science Technology and Earth Sciences, Personnel and Public Grievances, Government of India.

In the Letter cited the Hon'ble Minister, Government of India has pointed out that a large number of RTI requests are being filed regularly across the country and this is slowly but surely changing the way Governments function right up to the filed level and many cases of corruption and mal-administration have been exposed. However, disturbing reports have appeared in the media about the victimization of people who use RTI and PILS (Public Interest Litigations) based on such information to expose corruption and irregularities in administration. There are said to be reports of murder, threatening and physical intimidation. It is stated that for the success of the RTI Act effort is to be taken to ensure creation of an atmosphere where citizens can exercise this right freely and without fear. District authorities have a crucial role in this regard and there are enough provisions in the CrPC and IPC to take strict preventive and punitive actions against those who threaten or physically intimidate the information seekers.

In these circumstances Government would like to bring this matter to the notice of all the Law enforcement authorities, the District Authorities and all other concerned that if any instance of threatening or physical intimidation and complaint of similar nature comes into notice, it should be promptly inquired into and stringent action taken against the offenders under the relevant provisions in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). Necessary action should also be taken to generate awareness and sensitize all concerned about the importance of the Act. Preventive and punitive actions shall be taken as and when necessary.

SHEELA THOMAS,

Principal Secretary to Government (I/c).