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# All ministries, depts to accept online RTI pleas from today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Filing online RTI applications in all central ministries and departments through a common web-based platform will become a reality from Wednesday. At present, this facility is available only for 40 ministries, departments and commissions.

Now, the government will extend this facility to all central institutions, including ministries, departments and commissions, which are covered under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. "The minister of state for personnel, V Narayanasamy, will formally launch this facility here on Wednesday", said an official.

The government had launched an exclusive portal, for this purpose earlier this year, initiating this facility only for the questions asked from the ministry of personnel. This facility was subsequently extended to other ministries, including home, health, external affairs and agriculture, President Secretariat, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Vice-President's Office.

"The portal will now be open to entertain questions under the RTI Act for all the remaining ministries from August 21. The entire website is prepared in such a way that the system would provide online reply to all RTI applications," said the official.

This portal — developed by NIC — is a facility for Indian citizens to file online RTI applications and first appeals and also to make online payment of RTI fees. A department of personnel and training (DoPT) note said, "The prescribed fees can be paid through Internet banking of State Bank of India and its associate banks as well as by credit or debit cards of Visa or MasterCard through the payment gateway of SBI linked to this site".

The RTI Act mandates timely response (within 30 days) to citizens' requests for government information. An information-seeker has to pay a fee of Rs 10 for getting the information.

Giving details of the guidelines for information-seeker, the department said that the text of the application that can be uploaded at the prescribed column (on the website) was limited to 500 words only.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EDP)

DIARY No. 2774

DATE 29/8/13



*System Administrator*  
*Pt. ready / stat portal*  
*& response for compliance*  
*by all P20P.*

*22/8/13*

*Pt. upload*

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