

# Pravasi Bharat



Non-Profit organization # 8186258

To: Dr. Manmohan Singh  
Honourable Prime Minister of India  
South Block, Raisina Hill,  
New Delhi. India  
110011.

Date: 17th August 2013

Subject: Save RTI from Amendments.

Dear Sir,

As you are well aware that RTI act is one of the best tool available for common man in our nation; it increased both the transparency and accountability in most of the public sectors. We the Indians living in abroad felt happy with the order of Central Information Commission (CIC), declaring that political parties are public authorities under the RTI Act. We believe the transparency and accountability through RTI in the political parties of India will definitely enhance our democracy.

Sir, we have come across the news through electronic and online media on the plans in amendment of RTI Act. It is reported that the Government is in process to amend the RTI law, as a reaction to the recent Central Information Commission order. We, as the citizens of India request that it not to be amended. The Act has enabled accountability and strengthened our democracy through citizen's active participation.

We have gathered here in London, near High commission of India (HCI) Office and held a peaceful demonstration. We are submitting this petition through HCI Office. As a part of demonstration we tied our mouths with black ties to condemn the government plans to amend RTI.

In 2009, when amendments were being proposed to the RTI Act, the concerned minister of the government had assured Parliament, in response to a question, that "Non- Governmental Organisations and social activists will be consulted on the proposed amendments." We would, therefore, expect the government to hold wide range public discussions and also include its abroad citizens and concerned organizations before amending the RTI Act.

Sir, we are also concerned about increasing attacks on RTI activists in India. If possible please bring up the additional measures to safeguard RTI and RTI Activists.

Jai Hind  
Sincerely,

Nagender Chindam  
Chairman – Pravasi Bharat  
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[Attached, the signatures of the concerned Indian citizens living abroad - who support this petition.]