



सूचना के जन अधिकार का राष्ट्रीय अभियान

## NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR PEOPLES' RIGHT TO INFORMATION

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**National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information (NCPRI)**

Press Release, August 1, 2019

### **Police detains people wanting to submit petition to the Rashtrapati Bhawan NCPRI launches Use RTI to Save RTI campaign**

Today people who had gone to the Rashtrapati Bhawan to petition the President to appeal him to withhold assent to the #RTIAmendment Bill were detained by the police and taken to the Mandir Marg police station. Lakhs of people have petitioned the President asking him to withhold his assent using online platforms, sending emails to the President and via postcard campaigns and signatures collected through campaigns held on the ground. People had gathered at Rashtrapati Bhawan at Gate no. 38, which has a facility for receiving memorandums of the public, around noon to deliver the petitions. As people were reaching the Rashtrapati Bhawan, the police turned up in large numbers and detained all those who were present and took them in buses to Mandir Marg Police Station. None of the people who had gathered there, were allowed to submit their petitions at the Rashtrapati Bhawan secretariat. The police detained 66 people and many others were not allowed to reach the Rashtrapati Bhawan and were turned away.

Later the police allowed only 3 people to go the Rashtrapati Bhawan and deliver some of the petitions. Subsequently, the others were allowed to leave.

NCPRI co-convenors termed the detention and police preventing people from giving their petitions to the President as a serious attack on free speech and democracy.

NCPRI co-convenors Anjali Bhardwaj, Nikhil Dey and former Chief Information Commissioner of the CIC addressed a press conference to launch the Use RTI to Save RTI campaign and also give updates on the various campaigns happening across the country to oppose the RTI amendments.

Under the Use RTI to Save RTI campaign on the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month RTI applications will be filed across the country in conjunction with social movements and peoples' groups to seek information on key issues of public interest. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, nearly 100 questions through RTI applications have been filed seeking information on issues ranging from social security, defence procurement including rafale aircrafts, land acquisitions, ration, MGNREGA, Unnao rape case, functioning of the Lokpal, functioning of hospitals, deployment of teachers and many more.

RTI applications that have been prepared and filed can be accessed at

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Jypwzi7oMAzcg9QdGOIQhW217BxK79\\_1/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Jypwzi7oMAzcg9QdGOIQhW217BxK79_1/view?usp=drivesdk)

The Use RTI to Save RTI campaign was launched in multiple states today – Odisha, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Kerala. It will be taken up in other states in the coming days.

RTI applications will be filed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month and a portal where all the RTI applications and replies will be uploaded is being developed on [righttoinformation.info](http://righttoinformation.info) where details of the campaign are also available.

Anjali Bharadwaj, Nikhil Dey and Venkatesh Nayak  
(on behalf of the NCPRI)

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