

Alliance Against Conflict of Interest (AACI)

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To,
Shri Pranab Mukherjee
Hon'ble President of India
Rastrapati Bhavan
New Delhi

secy.president@rb.nic.in

Sub: Political Parties under RTI Act

Respected Sir,

There are reports that the Government has decided to promulgate an ordinance to amend the RTI Act with a purpose to counter the decision of the CIC declaring six political parties as Public authorities. Representatives of any political party, which claims that this is legally unsound, can approach the higher Courts to challenge the said decision. Such decision is certainly not a justification for issuing an ordinance.

We believe it to be an issue of conflict of interests. The very parties, which are affected by the CIC decision are misusing their legislative power to subvert the law. How can any organisation decide itself, that it should not be under the RTI Act?

As we understand, an ordinance should only be promulgated when there is a great urgency at a time when both Houses of Parliament are not in session. No such urgency exists in this case.

In the above- mentioned subject, we cannot see any reason or justification of bringing an ordinance. Further, it would amount to curtailing citizen's fundamental rights and issuing an ordinance to defeat a statutory order.

We appeal to you to consider whether it would be right to curb citizen's fundamental rights by ordinance when there appears to be no need for immediate action.

In case you decide to promulgate this ordinance, we would like to know the reasons for the immediate action.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Arun Gupta MD FIAP
Convener, AACI