Political parties should come under RTI scanner

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

A modest but courageous woman, Tantia Kumari wielded immense vitality, determination, acumen and selflessness as Commissioner of RTI. She took the initiative to educate RTI activists and gave them the courage to fight back in the face of threats and intimidations... A story of empowerment & social change, as Tantia Kumari continues to inspire the other activists despite heavy odds. Daughter of the late Koneru Ranga Rao, Tantia Kumari was a EPC member representing Coastal Telangana in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly. She was appointed RTI Commissioner in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Vizag and East Godavari, Tantia Kumari had an exclusive interview with LATA JAIN.

Tantia Kumari

How the RTI Act differs from Canadian Freedom of Information Act?

The real question here is, do we decide whether or not we will be in this for the prevailing law or the perceived or the Canadian Freedom of Information Act or we decided ignoring the RTI Act and can there be any consultations that there is not an official consultation that is open to the public at large? Here we have been involved in the things. What we can be careful is when the situation is. The judgment was done by the Supreme Court.

The word "Information" has taken a very wide acceptance and scope after the Right to Information Act 2005 came into force. It has changed the scenario in the country and legal debate discussions are never ending on the issue of scope. The question now arises, in what situation can an organization make the information of the country public? The question is, now in which situation can an organization make the information of the country public? Can it be dealt under RTI? Any organization, sovereignty or the government, fully benefitted from the government, fully benefitted from the RTI or the RTI?

Who are RTI activism attacked?

RTI activists are vulnerable human rights defenders in India. Unlike other NGOs, a majority of the RTI activists are not part of an organization, they are often alone, crossed at accents and other illegal attacks. RTI activism is not consumed, but it is illegal in itself to public authorities and political leaders, which can be misused against them and their activities. In the current context, many cases have been reported of RTI activists being killed or injured. The government has not taken any proactive measures to ensure the safety of RTI activists. The police have not taken any action against those who have committed the crimes.

In the case of RTI, who is the complainant?

In the case of RTI, the complainant is the government. If the complainant is a government department, then the government department is the complainant. If the complainant is a person, then the person is the complainant. If the complainant is an organization, then the organization is the complainant. In the case of RTI, the complainant is the government and the government department, or the person, or the organization.