

No relook at RTI: Salman Khurshid

New Delhi: Amid a raging debate on RTI, Union Law Minister Salman Khurshid has made it clear that there is no proposal for a "relook" at the Act but noted that not only the government but the judiciary too had experienced "difficulties" because of it.

"We are proud of RTI. We are pleased that we gave RTI to this country. Even if it causes inconvenience to this country to an extent, we will bear that inconvenience.

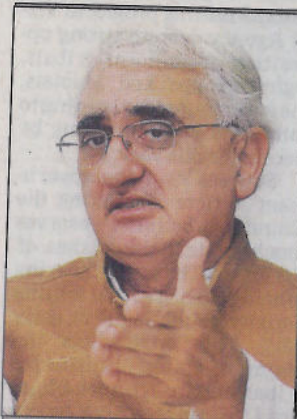
"But we must ensure that in totality, the efficiency and functioning of government is strengthened," he said.

On whether the RTI would be revisited, Khurshid said, "there is no proposal to relook at the Act".

He went on to add, "Today, we are only absorbing the experience of the RTI and now whether after a period, looking at the experience, looking at the demands, looking at the consensus that can emerge, we can bring about any changes or not is something that is futuristic. It is something which I cannot say today."

The law minister, however, ruled out making fundamental changes in the legislation. "If you say that we'll make any fundamental changes in the RTI, the answer is no. We are proud of RTI," he told in an interview recently. Queried whether some more exemptions like the one granted to the CBI could be brought into the Act, the lawyer-turned-politician noted, "No legislation is perfect."

"You will have to see any legislation, you will have to, from time to time, (see) how it is working. If it needs to be tightened, you tighten it; if you need to broaden, you



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broaden it; if you need to deepen, you deepen it; if you need to make exceptions, you make exceptions as the CBI exception has now been made," the law minister said.

Replies to some RTI queries have generated major controversies recently like the one by a Finance Ministry note to the PMO which suggested that the 2G scam could have been averted if then Finance Minister P Chidambaram had insisted on auction.

Khurshid noted that the government and the judiciary have faced "some difficulties" in dealing with RTI queries. "We certainly know government is not the only one. Government means political government, not the only ones which felt some difficulties," he said. PTI