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What are the recent changes proposed to Right to Information (RTI) Act? Should they be of any cause of concern? Discuss.

The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2018 proposes to provide a provision under RTI Act to frame rules regarding Salaries, allowances, and Condition of Service of Chief Information Commission, Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioner.

As per the present act the Salaries and allowance of CIC and IC are same as the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioner. But the proposed amendment says "shall be prescribed by the government".

The proposed amendment aims to lower the Independent nature of Information Commissioner which is treated equivalent to Election Commissioner. It also proposes to remove the 5 year tenure of the Information Commissioner which will be prescribed by the centre. This will further deter the decision making by the Information Commissioners. Since the act requires the authority to take action against the highest offices to comply with the

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Provisions of the law the proposed amendment would completely destroy the autonomy of the Information Commissioners to adjudicate on appeals and complaints.

Insted of Proposing amendment to modify the Salary, allowance, tenure and Service of Information Commissioners the Bill should focus on addressing the ~~all~~ long pending appeals and filling up of Vacent post for Information Commissioners.

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