

PROACTIVE MEASURES OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT-2005

1. CONSTITUTION OF CORE COMMITTEE

A Core Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to monitor the action to ensure smooth implementation of various provisions of the Act, particularly the preparatory action in different Public Authority as required under section-4 of the Act. Besides the Committee shall

- (i) monitor the progress on day to day basis by taking stock of the situation at regular intervals.
- (ii) formulate one time bound implementation action plan for each specific task so that the entire infrastructure is set up within the stipulated period.
- (iii) ensure to promote timely and effective dissemination of accurate information by public authorities about their activities.
- (iv) ensure proper training to all Public Information Officer/Assistant Public Information Officer and first Appellate Authority.
- (v) ensure publication of a comprehensive guide book in Oriya for the guidance of the general public seeking information.
- (vi) develop and organize educational programmes to educate the public, in particular the disadvantaged communities as to how to exercise the rights contemplated under this Act.

2. DECLARATION OF PUBLIC AUTHORITY

Keeping in view the definition of Public Authority as prescribed under sub-section-1 of section-2 of the Right to Information Act, the appropriate authorities i.e. various Departments of Government have declared the following district level bodies as Public Authorities.

- (a) Any district level public office
- (b) Each Revenue sub-division and Tahsil
- (c) Local bodies in rural area such as Grampanchayat, Panchayat Samiti, Zilla Parishad
- (d) Public Corporations, authorities, Institutions, Autonomous bodies
- (e) Local bodies in Urban area including NAC, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations
- (f) NGOs substantially/partially financed by Government

3. APPOINTMENT OF FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITIES, P.I.Os AND A.P.I.Os

The Departments of government as well as the Public Authorities have designated Appellate Authorities, PIOs and APIOs of their own.

4. PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE

Departments of Government and other sub-ordinate offices/organizations have taken steps for disclosure the information voluntarily on 17 mannuals as stipulated under section-4 of the Act. Keeping in view to maintain uniformity of the said disclosure, 17 standardised web formats have been prepared.

5. TRAINING

Programme for imparting training to Appellate Authorities, P.I.O.s and A.P.I.Os at Government level, at the level of Heads of Departments as well as training of the trainers at district level by the Resource personnel at the Gopabandhu Academy of Administration, Bhubaneswar has been completed. Similarly the training of P.R.I. functionaries & representatives has been attempted by S.I.R.D. & is likely to be completed by end of November.

6. FRAMING OF RULES

Necessary Rules, under section 27 of the Right to Information Act have already been framed and published. Copy of the Rules have been circulated among all concerns for smooth operation of various provisions of the Act.

7. CONSTITUTION OF STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

In exercise of the powers, conferred by section - 15 of the Right to Information Act, Orissa Information Commission has been constituted consisting of Sri D.N.Padhi, I.A.S. as the Chief Information Commissioner and Prof. Radhamohan a prominent economist as the Information Commissioner, duly appointed by the Governor of orissa under recommendation of the Committee constituted under sub-section 3 of section 15 of the Act. All necessary infrastructure to make the commission functional have been provided.

In a bid to systematize its functioning, the website of Orissa Information Commission was launched on 20th of December, 2005. Presenting a plethora of information the website will contain basic data in Oriya and English on the background, formation and activities of the Commission along with relevant links to Central Information Commission, state Information Commissions in other States, Right to Information act, 2005, Orissa Right to Information Rules, Operational Guidelines and details of proactive disclosure by various public authorities. It also hosts a "Feedback" provision to enable the users to give their opinions/views to progressively improve and expand the database of the website.

Formed under the provisions of Right to Information Act, 2005, the Orissa Information Commission has started functioning from November 20, 2005 at State Guest House, Bhubaneswar, with the objective of ensuring speedy disposal of appeals/complaints filed by citizens.

Inaugurating the website, Sri D.N.Padhi, Hon'ble State Chief Information Commissioner, Orissa stated that the website of the Commission marks the beginning of an effective and transparent process of dissemination of information and eventually disposal of cases and responding to appeals/complaints filed at any part of the State. Citizens can access the website at www.orissasoochanacommission.nic.in, he said.