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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Pg. No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Importance of RTI</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is right to information?</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of cases where this right can be used</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you need to do</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information, which can be denied</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annexure A</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What can the Right to Information Act do?</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTI: The weapon of the Common Man</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Right to Information Act, 2005 at a Glance</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Websites</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PREFACE

"Lead us from untruth to truth, is a spiritual message of Vedic vintage, for, without realising Truth, humanity never rises to its due divinity and soon descends to the status of slave."

That truth reveals itself when the information becomes open and public.

The Right to Information Act, 2005, (RTI) became effective from 12th October, 2005, day of Vijayadashmi. RTI is a codification of the right of citizens.

More than 50 countries now have guaranteed their citizens the right to know what their government is up to, and more than half of these freedom of information laws are passed in the last decade, according to a global survey updated till May 2004, compiled and edited by freedominfo.org by David Banisar of the university of Leeds and Privacy International.

It is the duty of all citizens to exercise the right available under RTI and be active in the implementation of this significant legislation to achieve transparency in governance. Citizens’ active use of this right shall promote accountability in the working of all government and other connected organisations.

Whereas the Right to Information Act (RTI) is a powerful tool in the hands of citizens, it is up to the citizens to use it in a responsible manner and for a bonafide purpose. Frivolous use or use with the intention of harassment will defeat the objective of the Act.

BCAS Foundation has resolved to play an active role in this area of service. The publication of this booklet is an attempt to create awareness and interest amongst the citizens on the subject of Right to Information.

Narayan Varma
On behalf of Trustees, BCAS Foundation

Sanjeev Pandit

ii
Citizen's Guide to
The Right to Information Act, 2005

Introduction

India got Independence in 1947 and proclaimed itself a Republic in 1950, with a great Constitution. However, in practice, a brown elite replaced the white masters and Swaraj never came. Mahatma Gandhi had said, "Real Swaraj will come not by the acquisition of authority by a few but by the acquisition of capacity to resist authority when abused." A few did acquire the authority and retained it, but the capacity to resist misuse of authority eluded the average citizen of India. The Right to Information now empowers him to do that.

The Right to Information is derived from our fundamental right of expression under Article 19 of the Constitution of India. If we do not have information on how our Government and Public Institutions function, we cannot express any informed opinion on it. This has been clearly stated by various Supreme Court judgments, since 1977. We accept that the freedom of the press is an essential element for a democracy to function. It is worthwhile to understand the underlying assumption in this well entrenched belief. Why is the freedom of the media considered as one of the essential features for a democracy? Democracy revolves around the basic idea of citizens being at the centre of governance and rule of the people. We need to define the importance of the concept of freedom of the press from this fundamental premise. It is obvious that the main reason for a free press is to ensure that citizens are informed. If this be one of the main reasons for the primacy given to the freedom of the press, it clearly flows from this, that the citizen's Right to Know is paramount. Also, since the Government is run on behalf of the people, they are the rightful owners who have a right to be informed directly. Justice Mathew ruled in the Raj Narain case, "In a government of responsibility like ours, where all the agents of the public must be responsible for their conduct, there can be but few secrets. The people of this country have a right to know every public act, everything that is done in a public way by their public functionaries. They are entitled to know the particulars of every public transaction in all its bearing. Their right to know, which is derived from the concept of freedom of speech, though not absolute, is a factor which should make one wary when
The Right to Information Act, 2005

secrecy is claimed for transactions which can at any rate have no repercussion on public security."

Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS ) in the rural areas of Rajasthan first brought the Right to Information on the agenda of the Nation. Nine States had enacted the Right to Information Acts across India. On 11 and 12 May, 2005, the two Houses of Parliament passed the Right to Information Act as Act 22 of 2005 (RTI) (the Act). It has become operational from 12 October, 2005 – significantly Vijayadashmi.

The Right to Information existed since the day the Constitution of India was framed. The present Act only gives procedures to operationalise this right.

The Importance of RTI

1. At the price of Rs.10, the Act provides for Citizens the facility to get information on the Government’s actions and decisions. If you wish to send your application by post or courier, the extra cost will be about Rs.10. The cost of getting the information of about ten pages would be Rs. 20.

2. The law mandates that the information has to be given within 30 days.

3. If a few thousand citizens spend about Rs. 50 per month and about an hour they can file an application under RTI and get information about matters, which concern them.

4. The power of getting accountability, reducing corruption, impacting policy decisions and ensuring better governance is now with us. We missed our opportunity in 1950, but have another chance now.

5. You can make a big contribution to getting the Nation we want.

6. Implementation and success of Swaraj depends on us. We need to make a small effort.

What is right to information?

Section 2(j) in the Act states:

“right to information” means the right to information accessible under this Act which is held by or under the control of any public authority and includes the right to -

(i) inspection of work, documents, records;
The Right to Information Act, 2005

(iii) taking notes, extracts, or certified copies of documents or records;

(iii) taking certified samples of material;

(iv) obtaining information in the form of diskettes, floppies, tapes, video cassettes or in any other electronic mode or through printouts where such information is stored in a computer or in any other device);

Information can be demanded from all Public authorities i.e., all Govt. bodies and organizations substantially financed by Government including NGOs.

The Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI) is a codification of this important right of citizens. The right existed since the time India became a republic, but was difficult to enforce without going to Court. The Act and its rules include the following:

- Define a format for requisitioning information.
- A time period within which information must be provided, namely 30 days.
- Method of giving the information.
- Some charges for applying. The principle is that charges should be minimum, – more as a token. They are not representative of the costs, which may be incurred.
- Some exemptions of information, which will not be given.
- Citizens can ask for information and get xerox (copies) of documents, permissions, policies and decisions.
- Inspection of files can also be done and samples can be asked for.
- All administrative offices of public authorities have to appoint ‘Public Information Officers (PIO).’
- Citizens to apply for information to the Public Information Officer of the concerned office.
- If information is not provided or wrongly refused, the Citizen can go in appeal to an Appellate Authority who would be an official in the same department, senior to the PIO.
- If this too does not give a satisfactory result, one can appeal to the State or Central Information Commission, which is an independent authority, being established under the Act.
The Right to Information Act, 2005

- The Act provides for a levy of penalty on the PIO for delay at a rate of Rs. 250 per day of delay, or for malafide denial of information. In case of information being delayed, no charges for information are to be paid.

Thus, RTI provides for a time bound and defined process for citizens to access information about all actions taken by Public authorities. The penal provisions on the PIO are the real teeth of the Act, which ensure that the PIO cannot treat citizen’s demands for information in a cavalier manner. One of the major reasons for the success of the Maharashtra and Delhi Acts was the provision for penalising the PIO in case he does not give the information within the mandated period. The National Act (RTI) has drawn a lot of inspiration from the Maharashtra Act.

Each State has the right to frame its rules in terms of fees, forms and procedures, which have to be in consonance with the Act. Commonality between Maharashtra and Central Government rules:

1. Application fee Rs.10 payable by cash or pay order. Maharashtra also allows payment by Court fee stamps.
2. Maharashtra Act had a format for application. The Central Government has not prescribed any format. Citizens can use the said format for application under RTI.
3. Charges for providing information in A4 size paper are Rs.2 per page.
4. No need to get forms from anywhere. Your application can be typed or handwritten.

**Types of cases where this right can be used**

1. You need information on some activity of the Government, or reasons for certain decisions.
2. You know or suspect corruption or wrongdoing in some department or activity. The mere asking of information sometimes reduces illegal acts, since the wrongdoers feel restrained or threatened by exposure.
3. When bribes are sought to give you ration card or water connection or an authority refuses to act on a complaint or FIR.
4. You feel you could suggest improvements, if you have the information.
What do you need to do

1. Find out the designation of the officer in charge of the department, which is responsible. If possible, find out if there is a designated PIO. Otherwise, you can address your application to the PIO, at the head office. All offices are supposed to display a board giving the name of the PIO. At times, this information can be obtained from the web. If the application goes to the wrong PIO, he has to forward it to the concerned PIO within five days.

2. Think of how to frame a question asking for information, which will serve the objective you are trying to attain.

Examples:

a) If you wish to know the policy for reserving or dereserving of land, ask for a copy of the rules governing it. If you wish to know why a sports ground is being converted into a commercial complex, ask for the copies of the correspondence relating to the change of user. This will also give you file notings with the reasons given by different officials.

b) In Delhi, Parivartan obtained information of a major fraud in the move of privatising water supply.

c) MKSS got copies of Civil works in rural Rajasthan and proved that they were fictitious.

d) Shailesh Gandhi, (RTI activist in Mumbai) obtained information about the loot of public money in crores using the device of giving public lands to the elite for a pittance.

e) Bhaskar Prabhu of AGNI in Mumbai obtained details of corruption in admissions in Sydenham College.

f) Shivaji Raut in Satara obtained EGS muster rolls, which on verification exposed fraud. A campaign has been launched to empower citizens to stop this rape of the poor.

Make the RTI application in the format given in Appendix A clearly defining the information you are seeking, sign it and take a xerox (copy) for your record. Send it to the office from which you are seeking information. If you or your representative is delivering it personally, get an acknowledgement on the xerox (copy). You can also send it by courier, or registered post, in which case it would be useful to keep the acknowledgement. Some offices cause problems in
accepting hand-delivered requisitions. In such cases, courier or post is advisable. The application fee of Rs.10 can be paid in cash or by pay order for Central and Maharashtra Government organizations. For Maharashtra Government bodies a Court Fee stamp of Rs.10 can be affixed on the form as payment of application fee.

The PIO must give information within 30 days of receiving the requisition for information.

**Information, which can be denied**

There are some matters where information can be denied, which are given in section 8, and section 9 of RTI. Sections read as under:

"8. Exemption from disclosure of information:

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, there shall be no obligation to give any citizen,—

a. information, disclosure of which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, relation with foreign State or lead to incitement of an offence;

b. information which has been expressly forbidden to be published by any court of law or tribunal or the disclosure of which may constitute contempt of court;

c. information, the disclosure of which would cause a breach of privilege of Parliament or the State Legislature;

d. information including commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of a third party, unless the competent authority is satisfied that larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information;

e. information available to a person in his fiduciary relationship, unless the competent authority is satisfied that the larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information;

f. information received in confidence from foreign Government;
g. information, the disclosure of which would endanger the life or physical safety of any person or identify the source of information or assistance given in confidence for law enforcement or security purposes;

h. information which would impede the process of investigation or apprehension or prosecution of offenders;

i. cabinet papers including records of deliberations of the Council of Ministers, Secretaries and other officers:

Provided that the decisions of Council of Ministers, the reasons thereof, and the material on the basis of which the decisions were taken shall be made public after the decision has been taken, and the matter is complete, or over:

Provided further that those matters, which come under the exemptions specified in this section, shall not be disclosed;

j. Information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest, or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual unless the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer or the appellate authority, as the case may be, is satisfied that the larger public interest justifies the disclosure of such information:

Provided that the information, which cannot be denied to the Parliament or a State Legislature shall not be denied to any person.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in the Official Secrets Act, 1923 nor any of the exemptions permissible in accordance with sub-section (1), a public authority may allow access to information, if public interest in disclosure outweighs the harm to the protected interests.

(3) Subject to the provisions of clauses (a), (c) and (i) of sub-section (1), any information relating to any occurrence,
event or matter which has taken place, occurred or happened twenty years before the date on which any request is made under section 6 shall be provided to any person making a request under that section:

Provided that where any question arises as to the date from which the said period of twenty years has to be computed, the decision of the Central Government shall be final, subject to the usual appeals provided for in this Act.

9. Grounds for rejection to access in certain cases:

Without prejudice to the provisions of section 8, a Central Public Information Officer or a State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, may reject a request for information where such a request for providing access would involve an infringement of copyright subsisting in a person other than the State."

One of the simple and yet very powerful examples of use of RTI is of a slum dweller who had learnt the use of the RTI. When he applied for a new ration card, he was told that he would have to give a bribe of Rs. 2000 to the officials to obtain it. Our friend, - a RTI - empowered Citizen, - smiled and just went ahead and applied for the ration card without offering any bribes or groveling in front of the officials for pity. Our common citizen had decided to personally become the enforcer of good governance. He found out in how many weeks, the bribe-givers got their ration cards. He waited for an extra four weeks, and then applied for information under RTI. Using the simple format with an application fee of Rs. 10, he delivered it to the Public Information Officer of the Food and Supply office. He had asked up to which date applications for ration cards had been cleared, and the daily progress report of his application. This shook up the corrupt officials, since the answer would reveal that they had given ration cards to others who had applied after him, which would be conclusive evidence that they had no justification for delaying his card. Happy ending: The ration card was given to him immediately. Our RTI-empowered citizen had been able to enforce the majesty of the citizen by using RTI. This story has been repeated many thousand times in getting a road repaired, getting an electricity connection, admissions in educational institutions and so on.
Form of Application for Maharashtra — to be used for Central Government bodies

Annexure A
(see rule 3)

Format of application for obtaining information under the Right to Information Act, 2005

To,
The Public Information Officer,
(Name of the Office with Address)

(1) Full name of the applicant:

(2) Address:

(3) Particulars of the information required
   (i) Subject matter of Information:
   (ii) The period to which the information relates:
   (iii) Description of the information required:
   (iv) Whether the information is required by post or in person:
       (the actual postal charges shall be included in additional fees)
   (v) In case by post:
       (Ordinary, Registered or Speed)

(4) Whether the applicant is below poverty line:
   (if yes, attach the photocopy of the proof thereof.)

Place:
Date:               Signature of the applicant

Note: Pay Rs.10 by cash or by pay order. For Maharashtra Government bodies you can also affix a 10 rupee Court Fee stamp on the application as application fee.
Within the mandated period of 30 days, one of the following will happen:

1. You will get the information you have sought, and are satisfied. The PIO may ask for payment of fees, which is prescribed as follows:
   i. For A4 size copies or typed information Rs. 2 per page.
   ii. For information given on Floppy or CD- Rs. 50.
   iii. Maps, books or documents, which have been priced earlier, the price fixed for the same.
   iv. For inspection of files or records no charge for the first hour and Rs. 5 per every fifteen minutes thereafter.
   v. Postage charge would be added.

The period between the PIO asking for payment of fees, and the actual payment of fees, is over and above the period allowed to the PIO to give information.

2. The information asked for may be denied by the PIO giving reasons mentioned in the exclusion clauses.
   i. If the reasons are right, you cannot get the information.
   ii. The reasons may be wrong, or irrelevant.

3. You may be given partial or irrelevant information.

4. No answer may be sent to you. Under section 7 (2) if no reply is given in 30 days, it is ‘deemed refusal’.

In case, of 2(ii), 3 or 4 above, you should go in appeal against the PIO to the first Appellate Authority, who is from the same department and senior to the PIO. If the PIO refuses to give the information he is also supposed to give you the name and address of the Appellate Authority. If no reply is received, or the PIO has not mentioned the name of the Appellate Authority, you could address the appeal to the Head of the Office.

If the PIO has refused information with mala fide intentions, or not replied at all, he is liable for a penalty of Rs.250 per day, for the period of delay i.e., until he gives the information. This penalty is payable by the PIO from his salary and he is also liable for disciplinary action. The penal provisions of Section 20, are the real teeth of the Act, which if properly implemented will bring the rule of law into our Governance. Also, when the information is provided
after the period of thirty days is over, no cost can be charged for providing the information.

- The appeal must be made within 30 days of receiving the PIOs letter, or within 30 days from the last date on which the information should have been received - in case no letter is received.

- The appellate authority must dispose of the appeal within 30 days, or after giving reasons for delay, in a further period of 15 days i.e., a total of 45 days, if a letter giving reasons for the delay is issued.

- An appellate authority may give a personal hearing to you and the PIO. However, it is not mandatory for you to attend a personal hearing.

- The Appellate Authority though belonging to the same department as the PIO is actually conducting a quasi-judicial proceeding and expected to give a fair and unbiased order based on your arguments in the appeal. He is also required to give reasons for arriving at a decision. The actual outcome may be:

1. You get an order directing the PIO to give the information (reasonable chance):

2. You may get an order rejecting the appeal and refusing to give the information.

3. You may get no reply at all. This is deemed rejection, once the period of 30/45 days is over.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you can file a second appeal with the Information Commission within 90 days. There are separate Information Commissions for the State and for Central Government Organisations. The power to penalise PIOs is only with the Information Commission. It will be useful to take a look at the Act and its rules by that time.

It is each citizen's duty to take the journey of bringing Swaraj to our Country by taking responsibility to bring accountability into our Governance. The Right to Information is our chance to achieve this goal. You can certainly start filing your RTI applications with the information provided in this booklet.

This is a small attempt to popularize the use of RTI. We now have a weapon to take charge of our Nation to build and direct it in the fashion we desire. Do spread the crusade of The RIGHT TO INFORMATION.– The Common Man's BRAHMASTRA.
What can the Right to Information Act do?

1. It restores to citizens the right to get information on rules, expenditure, reasons for taking decisions, copies of Government orders, agreements, Audit reports and so on. Virtually most activities of the Government can be monitored by citizens.

2. Any citizen can use RTI with a very low cost.

3. With a ten rupee fee and a proper application, a citizen initiates a very powerful legal course, which entitles him to information, which can be demanded by MLAs and MPs on the floor of the house! You do not have to get forms from anywhere. Just use the format, specified in some States.

4. Citizens have felt helpless as individuals to question or correct wrongs of the government officials. This Act restores the majesty of the citizen and empowers him to use the Power of ONE.

5. RTI can convert our purely electoral democracy into a true participatory democracy, by which we can get and monitor better governance, and also be participants in framing policies.

Some effective ways to get information under RTI:

1. Copies of Daily Sales Register, Card Register, Inspection Book, Daily and Monthly stock position Register & Cash Memos of ration shops.: Parivartan – to uncover diversion of foodgrains for poor:
   • Details of Political recommendations for Police transfers: has resulted in a check on this nefarious practice in Mumbai.
   • Copies of specifications for Road Construction and samples of concrete used: Citizens can stop poor roads from being made.
   • Filing a complaint and then asking for the progress report using RTI: A very useful way for Citizens to get desired results.
   • Asking for details of how Corporators or MLAs funds have been spent and then verifying the expense.
RTI: The weapon of the Common Man

Lead yourself to achieve:
- Better Governance.
- Better policies.
- Reduction of Corruption.
- Openness of Government working.

To achieve above your costs every month:
- About Rs. 50.
- An hour of your time.

You have the power and the responsibility: – Your RIGHT & your DUTY: AWAKE, ARISE, ACT.
### The Right To Information Act, 2005, at a Glance

#### Preamble
An Act to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Short heading</th>
<th>Subject matter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Extent &amp; Commencement</td>
<td>The Act extends to the whole of India except Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Definitions</td>
<td>Contains definitions of various terms such as appropriate government, Central / State Information Commission, Central / State Public Information Officer, Chief Information Commissioner, Competent Authority, Information, Right to information, Record, Third Party etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Right to information</td>
<td>All citizens shall have the right to information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Obligations of public authorities</td>
<td>Every public authority - to maintain its records duly indexed, – to publish within 120 days from the enactment of the Act particulars &amp; functions of the organizations and other specified details, – to update this every year, – to provide as much information suo moto to the public at regular intervals.</td>
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<td>Section</td>
<td>Short heading</td>
<td>Subject matter</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Designation of Public Information Officers</td>
<td>Within 120 days from the enactment of the Act, every public authority to appoint Central Public Information Officers or State Public Information Officers in all administrative units, who shall deal with requests from persons seeking information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Request for obtaining information</td>
<td>Request to be in writing or through electronic mode in English, Hindi or official language of the area with the prescribed fee to the concerned Public Information Officer. Applicant requesting information need not state any reasons for seeking information or give any personal details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Disposal of request</td>
<td>Normally information to be provided within 30 days; In case the information concerns the life or liberty of a person it shall be provided within 48 hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Exempted from disclosure</td>
<td>Information affecting sovereignty of India, security, strategic, scientific and economic interest of the State, forbidden information, secret information and cabinet papers cannot be obtained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Short heading</td>
<td>Subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Grounds for rejecting request for information</td>
<td>Information involving infringement of copyright subsisting in a person other than the State may be rejected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Part Information</td>
<td>Access may be provided to that part of the record which does not contain any information which is exempt from disclosure and which can reasonably be severed from any part that contains exempt information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Third Party information</td>
<td>Public Information Officer to give written notice to a third party if the information or record or part thereof pertains to him and is treated as confidential and invite the third party to make oral/written submissions. Whether the information should be disclosed to be decided keeping in view such submissions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Constitution of Central Information Commission</td>
<td>Central Government to appoint Central Information Commission consisting of Chief Information Commissioner and other Central Information Commissioners not exceeding 10. The Information Commissioners shall be persons of eminence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Short Heading</td>
<td>Subject matter</td>
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<td>in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Term of office and Condition of Service of Central Chief Information Commissioner</td>
<td>No Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term exceeding 5 years and shall not be eligible for reappointment. Retirement age 65 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Removal of Chief Information Commissioner or other Information Commissioners</td>
<td>The President may remove the Information Commissioner on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity after a reference to the Supreme Court. Pending the reference, the Information Commissioner may be suspended. The President may remove the Information Commissioner in certain other circumstances also.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Constitution of State Information Commission</td>
<td>State Government to appoint State Information Commission consisting of State Chief Information Commissioner and other State Information Commissioners. Other provisions are similar to those in Section 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Short Heading</td>
<td>Subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Term of office and Condition of Service of State Information Commissioners</td>
<td>No State Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term exceeding 5 years and shall not be eligible for re-appointment. Retirement age 65 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Removal of State Information Commissioners</td>
<td>Governor may suspend or remove a State Information Commissioner. The provisions are similar to those of Section 14.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Powers and Functions of the Information Commissions</td>
<td>While enquiring into any matter under this section of the Act the Information Commission has the same powers as are vested in a civil court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Appeal</td>
<td>Any person, if he does not receive the information within the specified period or if he is not satisfied with the decision of a Public Information Officer, he may file an appeal within 30 days with the officer senior in rank to the Public Information Officer. The first appellate authority has to dispose of the appeal latest within 45 days from the date of the receipt of the appeal. There is a provision to file a Second Appeal within a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Short Heading</td>
<td>Subject matter</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Penalties</td>
<td>If any Public Information Officer refuses to receive an application for information or does not furnish the information within the specified time or malafidely denies the request for information or knowingly gives incorrect, incomplete or misleading information or destroys information or obstructs furnishing of the information, a penalty of Rs. 250/- for each day of default shall be imposed. The penalty shall not exceed Rs. 25,000/.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Protection of action taken in good faith</td>
<td>No legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything done in good faith.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Act to have overriding effect</td>
<td>The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent contained in the Official Secrets Act, 1923 and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Short Heading</td>
<td>Subject matter</td>
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<td>any other law in force or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any law other than this Act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Bar of jurisdiction of courts</td>
<td>Courts shall not have jurisdiction to deal with orders made under this Act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Act not to apply to certain organizations</td>
<td>Act not to apply to intelligence and security organisations specified in the Second Schedule of the Act and information supplied by such organisations to the Government. However, information relating to corruption and human rights violation shall not be excluded under this Section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Monitoring and reporting</td>
<td>Information Commissions after the end of each year to prepare a report on implementation of the provisions of this Act and forward a copy thereof to the appropriate Government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Appropriate Government to prepare programmes</td>
<td>The appropriate Government shall, within 18 months from the commencement of this Act, compile in its official language a guide containing such information, in an easily comprehensible form and manner, as may reasonably be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Short Heading</td>
<td>Subject matter</td>
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<td>required by a person who wishes to exercise any right under this Act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Power to make rules by Appropriate Government</td>
<td>Government empowered to make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Power to make rules by Competent Authority</td>
<td>Competent authority empowered to make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Laying of rules</td>
<td>Rules made by the Central Government to be laid before each House of Parliament. Rules made by the State Government to be laid before the State Legislature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Power to remove difficulties</td>
<td>To remove any difficulty the Central Government is empowered to issue order making such provisions as are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Repeal</td>
<td>The Freedom of Information Act, 2002 is repealed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WEBSITES

Useful website where one can have RTI Act / Rules and / or other RTI related materials.

- Govt. www.persmin.nic.in
- www.humanrightsinitiative.org
- www.mahadhikar.org
- www.parivartan.com
- www.righttoinformation.info
- www.freedom.org
- www.thehoot.org
- www.satyamevajayate.info
- www.bcasonline.org*

* Complete text of this booklet is available for download on this website.
BCAS Foundation is a philanthropic body set up by Bombay Chartered Accountants’ Society (BCAS), a voluntary body of Chartered Accountants with nearly 8,000 members.

BCAS Foundation/BCAS have in the past carried out rehab projects related to earthquake in Gujarat. At present, it is carrying out rehab projects related to Tsunami in South India by establishing computer training centres in Tamil Nadu and reconstructing a school in Pondicherry. It has provided educational assistance to students and support to self-employed persons affected by floods on 26th July, 2005 in Mumbai. BCAS Foundation carries out many other philanthropic activities.

It is planned to establish w.e.f. January 2006, Clinic for RTI Development. Clinic shall provide all help to citizens to make applications under RTI Act and assist in resolving any related difficulties. It shall be manned by a knowledgeable person and assisted by Mr. Kewal Semlani and Mr. Shailesh Gandhi.

BCAS Foundation shall also arrange workshops for PIOs and citizens who wish to become RTI activists.

Present trustees of BCAS Foundation are:
P. N. Shah, Arvind Dalal, Narayan Varma,
Pradip Kapasi, Shariq Contractor,
Sanjeev Pandit, Himanshu Kishnadwala.

Address:
7, Jolly Bhavan No. 2,
New Marine Lines, Mumbai – 400 020
1. "The voice of intelligence is soft and weak, said Freud. It is drowned out by the roar of fear. It is ignored by the voice of desire. It is contradicted by the voice of shame. It is hissed away by hate, and extinguished by anger. Most of all it is silenced by ignorance."
   — KARL MENNINGER

2. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says:
   "Everyone has the right to freedom of information and expression: this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

3. Where is the Life we have lost in living? Where is the Wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?"
   — Eliot

To the above,
V. R. Krishna Iyer, Formerly Judge,
Supreme Court of India added:
"Where is the information we have lost in suppression?"

4. "Ignorance is not bliss but bondage and knowledge is not folly but duty, if government by the people is to possess the semblance of reality, the battle for informational swaraj needs awareness missiles."
   — V. R. Krishna Iyer