

Press Note for 15th October, 2011

The second day of the Convention convened at 1000 hrs on 15th October, 2011. Sri G Raghuram of IIM Ahmedabad made a presentation on the summary of the discussions on "Transparency and accountability: with special reference to Public Private Partnership Projects". Dr Bibek Debroy of CPR, New Delhi made observations on PPP like "Corruption comes down if monopoly goes away and Corruption comes down if discretion goes away".

Ms Maja Daruwala of CHRI presented the summary of the panel discussion on "RTI Act: Potential & efficacy in curbing corruption and grievance redressal". The panelists concluded that the potential for stemming corruption and grievance redressal needs much more obedience to proactive disclosure.

Shri Jagadananda, Information Commissioner, SIC, Orissa presented the summary of the panel discussion on "Experience and Prospects of Information Commissions". The panel shared with the audience the best practices of various State Information Commissions and the manner in which these practices have improved the working and efficiency of the Commission.

Sri V Vijay Kumar, Vice Chancellor of Dr BR Ambedkar University, Chennai gave a power point presentation on the "RTI Act, exemption provisions and second schedule". In his presentation he summarized the point of views of each one of the panelists and the issues raised by them.

The Panelists addressed the issues and questions raised by the audiences present in the hall.

Shri Satyananda Mishra, Chief Information Commissioner, CIC presented the brief outcome of the two days convention. He exhorted that the two day convention brought to the fore many important issues and many constructive suggestions were also received.

The valedictory session was addressed by Shri Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar. In his valedictory address he stated that the right to information is basic right that underpins good governance, democracy, poverty eradication and the practical realization of human rights. The norms of freedom of information and the assurance of widespread citizen participation in public affairs are essential for the full realization of democratic values. What is required is system of government responsive to the needs of its citizens with a culture of human rights and accountability. The recognition of right to information is crucial to achieving these ends. Hence there is the need for guaranteed and legislated right to information.

He shared with the audience the concept of **jaankari** i.e. being implemented in Bihar with the view to facilitate a hassle free information regime for a common man. He also stated that the Right to Service that is being in force in Bihar is in conjunction to the Right to Information Act.

In his concluding remarks he requested the Chief Information Commissioner of India to organize an all India Workshop on Right to Information in Patna with participation from all states and other countries well.

The two day convention of the Central Information Commission came to an end.