

Minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 26.02.2008

Present: -

- A. Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Chief Information Commissioner
- B. Shri A. N. Tiwari, Information Commissioner
- C. Dr. O.P. Kejariwal, Information Commissioner
- D. Secretary, JS (S), JS (TK), DS (PP), US (DCS), US (GS) assisted the Commission.

Agenda item 1: A Note circulated by IC (T) and the Comments of JS (Law) in respect of 'System of hearing Appeal u/s 19(3) and complaints u/s 18(1).'

Note circulated by IC (T) had been discussed. The Commission observed that the role of Appellate Authority is pivotal in the implementation of RTI Act 2005. However, petitioners have not been benefited by this arrangement of the First Appellate Authority in the Department.

Commission observed further that the petitions filed before the Commission revealed that

- (i) the petitioners files the petition as an appeal u/s 19(3) of the RTI Act since the First Appellate Authority do not dispose of the appeal on the date of filing the appeal.
- (ii) The petitioners files an appeal u/s 19(3) of the RTI Act though the Appellate Authority has ordered for the disclosure of the information and
- (iii) petitioners files a complaint u/s 18(1) before the Commission although the petition before the First Appellate Authority is still pending for disposal.

Commission emphasised that the Appellate Authority has to participate meaningfully in the disposal of the appeal petitions filed in the Departments.

Agenda item 2: Gateway for submitting Annual Return for the Year 2007-2008 on the website of the Commission.

Commission discussed submission of Annual Returns on a quarterly basis, and uploaded onto the website of the Commission. Commission appreciated the concept of quarterly submission and directed that a gateway for quarterly submission of Annual Return for the year 2007-2008 may be provided on the website of the Commission.

As a matter of policy, to encourage officers to join the Commission they may be given a higher designation and fiscal incentive if possible in terms of Govt. of India rules & regulations.