

पी. डी. टी. आचारी  
P. D. T. ACHARY



महासचिव, लोक सभा  
SECRETARY-GENERAL  
LOK SABHA

D.O. No. 2(5)/IC/09

18 June, 2009

Dear Sir,

Kindly refer to your Communication dated 8 April, 2009 regarding review of the existing systems in the Lok Sabha Secretariat in order to ensure best adherence to the objectives of the RTI Act, 2005.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that as far as our Secretariat is concerned, since the appointment of the CPIO/ Appellate Authority in November, 2005, the provisions of the RTI Act have always been implemented in the right earnest and its objectives adhered to. For this purpose, a dedicated 'Information Cell' was created in this Secretariat on 14 November, 2005. The fee and cost rules were notified on 17 December, 2005 and amended on 12 June, 2007.

All the applications received by us under this Act since its inception have been given due consideration and were replied to the full satisfaction of applicants. The following statement showing the growing number of applications and small number of second appeals would corroborate the fact that due care and attention is being accorded by this Secretariat to RTI applications under the said legislation:

Year	RTI applications	I Appeals	II Appeals
2005	20	--	--
2006	318	09	03
2007	445	51	08
2008	805	52	05
2009 (as on 8.6.09)	318	21	09 (06 cases are of 2007 and 03 are of 2008)

Concerning steps taken to ensure compliance of other provisions of the Act particularly section 4, I can say that our Secretariat meets the requirements fairly well with reference to the checklist sent by you with the communication. As regards pro-active **suo-moto** disclosures in terms of section 4 of the RTI Act, I would like to clarify that this Secretariat is already having an elaborate website [www.loksabha.nic.in](http://www.loksabha.nic.in), even prior to the coming into force of the RTI Act which contains detailed information on the House – related business/activities, its members, Parliamentary Committees, recruitments/results as well as the

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information about the Secretariat. This is a well established system in place under which information is put into public domain regularly, which also includes the Lok Sabha Debates, Reports of the Committees etc. Several of these records like House proceedings, Questions raised and Answers given thereto, Who's Who etc. are easily accessible on the website. I may add here that this site itself fulfils the requirements of most of the RTI applicants. This is in keeping with the principle of the Act to promote transparency and accountability in the working of public authorities.

Besides all these initiatives, I may inform you that this Secretariat has also been imparting training to its newly recruited officers about the RTI Act. The officers of the RTI Cell are sent to Institutions like ISTM, DoPT for training/refreshment courses on RTI Act. These activities have greatly helped in better implementation of the Act and sensitizing the employees of the Lok Sabha Secretariat to the objectives of the legislation and the related best practices.

The increase in the number of RTI Applications and appeals reveal the growing aspirations/expectations of the common citizen from the Lok Sabha. As a result, on many occasions applications were received where information on more than 50 points was sought. As this Act has helped a lot to improve the awareness of the people about the complex nature of the work prevalent in the Lok Sabha Secretariat and also helped to generate interest of the common citizen of this country in parliamentary activities, the number of RTI applications have increased over the years. However, I am delighted to inform you that in spite of the large number of applications received, the percentage of first and second appeals filed by applicants is just 6.4 % in the case of first appeal and 0.62% in the case of second appeals in the year 2008 which itself indicates the importance being attached to the implementation of RTI Act, 2005 by our Secretariat.

I would therefore, like to give you my sincere assurance for the implementation of this Act in letter and spirit by the Lok Sabha Secretariat in order to meet the growing aspirations of the people from this august institution.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(P.D.T. ACHARY)

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