

डा० विवेक कुमार अग्निहोत्री  
Dr. VIVEK K. AGNIHOTRI



महासचिव, राज्य सभा  
SECRETARY-GENERAL, RAJYA SABHA

11.05.2009

D.O. No. 4/1/2008-RTI

*My dear Wajahat,*

Please refer to your communication dated April 8, 2009 regarding review of the existing systems in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat (which has been described as my 'Commission') to ensure best adherence to the objectives of the RTI Act. In this context, I have the pleasure to inform you that the legislation saw its implementation in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat in right earnest, with the appointment of the CPIO/Appellate Authority in September/October, 2005, and the notification of its fee and cost rules in December, 2005. Since then, this Secretariat is not only entertaining all requests for information but also complying with other provisions of the RTI Act. I am giving below the details of the applications, first/second appeals handled by the Secretariat so far, which would give you an idea of the entire gamut of work undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act in the Secretariat: -

Year	RTI applications	1 <sup>st</sup> Appeals	2 <sup>nd</sup> Appeals
2005	8	-	-
2006	114	3	1
2007	257	27	1
2008	280	22	2
2009 (upto 06.05.09)	96	12	4

The growing number of applications received and the small number of second appeals which went upto the CIC, is indicative of the care and attention being accorded by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat to the work under the said legislation. This Secretariat has also taken adequate steps to ensure compliance of the other provisions of the Act, particularly, Sections 4 and 25.

I have also got examined the status of implementation of the Act with reference to the checklist received with your communication and I can state with certainty that this Secretariat meets the prescribed requirements fairly well.

Coming to pro-active disclosures, in terms of Section 4 of the RTI Act, for which a major concern has been shown, I would like to clarify that this Secretariat has had an elaborate website (<http://rajyasabha.nic.in>), even prior to the coming into force of the RTI Act, which contains detailed information on

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the House-related business/activities, its Members, the Committees as well as the Secretariat. There is a well-established system in place under which information is put into the public domain regularly, including the Committee reports. Several of these records, like House proceedings, questions, etc. are in a searchable format on the website. In fact, efforts are presently underway to digitize the debates of Rajya Sabha since 1952 and place them on the Secretariat's website. The website itself is undergoing a complete overhaul in order to make it more user-friendly.

Besides all this, this Secretariat has also, during the past five months, organized a full-day workshop on the RTI Act inviting experts to speak (which you were kind enough to grace with your presence); a half-day experience sharing session within the Secretariat; and a panel discussion involving outside experts. These activities have greatly helped in sensitizing the employees of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat to the objectives of the legislation and the related best practices. It is proposed to continue such interactions in future as well. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat also nominates its officers/employees, from time to time, to attend the training programmes on RTI organized by ISTM.

In the end, I would like to assure you that we are trying to implement the Act with all earnestness at our command.

*with warm regards*

Yours sincerely,



(V.K. Agnihotri)

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