

### Important DoPT Circulars

DoPT Circulars	Department of personnel and Training (DoPT) circulars are attached.
----------------	---

No.1/6/2011-IR  
Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions  
Department of Personnel & Training  
\*\*\*\*\*

North Block, New Delhi  
Dated the 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Sub: Implementation of *suo motu* disclosure under Section 4 of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 – Issue of guidelines regarding:**

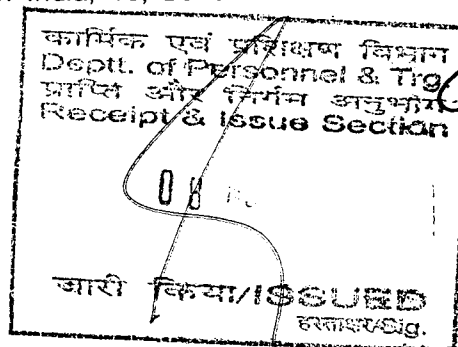
The *suo motu* disclosure of information to public is mandated under Section 4 (2) of the RTI Act, 2005, so that the public have to resort minimally to the use of this Act to obtain information. Section 4(1)(b) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 lays down the information which should be disclosed by Public Authorities on a *suo motu* or proactive basis. Section 4(3) prescribes for wide dissemination of every information, in such form and manner which is easily accessible to the public.

2. The undersigned is directed to refer to this Department's O.M. of even number dated 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 and to reiterate the guidelines therein (Copy enclosed), duly incorporating a slight revision to Para 4.4 of the above guidelines allowing for third party audit by any Government Training Institute, in cases where no Training Institute exists under the concerned Ministry/Department/Public Authority.
3. Central Government Ministries/Departments are advised to undertake *suo motu* disclosure based on these guidelines, in compliance to Sections 4(1)(b) read with Section 4(2), 4(3) and 4(4) of the RTI Act, 2005
4. The enclosed guidelines may be brought to the notice of all Public Authorities under the Ministry/ Department including those in their Attached Offices, Subordinate Offices, Constitutional Bodies, Statutory Bodies, Autonomous Organizations and Public Sector Undertakings.

*V Sinha*  
(Varsha Sinha)  
Director

1. All the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India
2. Union Public Service Commission, Lok Sabha Secretariat, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Cabinet Secretariat, Central Vigilance Commission, President's Secretariat, Vice-President's Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, NITI Aayog, Election Commission
3. Central Information Commission, CIC Bhawan, Baba Gangnath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067
4. Staff Selection Commission, CGO Complex, New Delhi
5. O/o the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.

Copy to: Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs.



# Guidelines on *suo motu* disclosure under Section 4 of the RTI Act

## INDEX

S. No.	Chapter	Page No.
1	<i>Suo motu</i> disclosure of more items under Section 4	1
2	Guidelines for digital publication of proactive disclosure under Section 4	4
3	Guidelines for certain clauses of Section 4(1)(b) to make disclosure more effective	7
4	Compliance with provisions of <i>suo motu</i> disclosure	12

## **Guidelines on *suo motu* disclosure under Section 4 of the RTI Act**

### **10 *Suo motu* disclosure of more items under Section 4**

Sub-section 4(2) of the RTI Act, 2005 requires every public authority to take steps in accordance with the requirements of clause (b) of sub-section 4(1) to provide as much information *suo motu* to the public at regular intervals through various means of communication, including internet, so that the public have minimum resort to use the Act to obtain information. Accordingly, the Public Authorities may proactively disclose the following items also under the *suo motu* disclosure provisions of Section 4:

### **11 Information related to Procurement**

11.1 Information relating to procurement made by Public Authorities including publication of notice/tender enquiries, corrigenda thereon, and details of bid awards detailing the name of the supplier of goods/services being procured or the works contracts entered or any such combination of these and the rate and total amount at which such procurement or works contract is to be done should be disclosed. All information disclosable as per Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure's O.M. No 10/1/2011-PPC dated 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 on Mandatory Publication of Tender Enquiries on the Central Public Procurement Portal and O.M. No. 10/3/2012- PPC dated 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 on Implementation of comprehensive end-to-end e-procurement should be disclosed under Section 4. At present the limit is fixed at Rs. 10.00 lakhs. In case of procurements made through DGS&D Rate Contracts or through Kendriya Bhandar/ NCCF, only award details need to be published. However information about procurement which fall within the purview of Section 8 of the RTI Act would be exempt.

### **12 Public Private Partnerships**

12.1 If Public services are proposed to be provided through a Public Private Partnership (PPP), all information relating to the PPPs must be disclosed in the public domain by the Public Authority entering into the PPP contract/concession agreement. This may include details of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), if any set up, detailed project reports, concession agreements, operation and maintenance manuals and other documents generated as part of the implementation of the PPP project. The documents under the ambit of the exemption from disclosure of information under section 8(1)(d) and 8(1)(j) of

the RTI Act would not be disclosed *suo motu*. Further, information about fees, tolls, or other kinds of revenue that may be collected under authorization from the Government, information in respect of outputs and outcomes, process of selection of the private sector party may also be proactively disclosed. All payments made under the PPP project may also be disclosed in a periodic manner along with the purpose of making such payment.

### **13 Transfer Policy and Transfer Orders**

13.1 Transfer policy for different grades/cadres of employees serving in Public Authority should be proactively disclosed. All transfer orders should be publicized through the website or in any other manner listed in Section 4(4) of the Act. These guidelines would not be applicable in cases of transfers made keeping in view sovereignty, integrity, security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State and the exemptions covered under Section 8 of the Act. These instructions would not apply to security and intelligence organizations under the second schedule of the RTI Act.

### **14 RTI Applications**

14.1 All Public Authorities shall proactively disclose RTI applications and appeals received and their responses, on the websites maintained by Public Authorities with search facility based on key words. RTI applications and appeals received and their responses relating to the personal information of an individual may not be disclosed, as they do not serve any public interest.

### **15 CAG & PAC paras**

15.1 Public Authorities may proactively disclose the CAG & PAC paras and the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) only after these have been laid on the table of both the houses of the Parliament. However, CAG paras dealing with information about the issues of sovereignty, integrity, security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State and information covered under Section 8 of the RTI Act would be exempt.

### **16 Citizens Charter**

16.1 Citizens Charter prepared by the Ministry/Department, as part of the Result Framework Document of the department/organization should be proactively disclosed and six monthly report on the performance against the benchmarks set in Citizens Charter should also be displayed on the website of public authorities.

## **17 Discretionary and Non-discretionary grants**

17.1 All discretionary /non-discretionary grants/ allocations to state governments/ NGOs/Other institutions by Ministry/Department should be placed on the website of the Ministry/Department concerned. Annual Accounts of all legal entities who are provided grants by Public Authorities should be made available through publication, directly or indirectly on the Public Authority's website. Disclosures would be subject to provisions of Section 8 to 11 of the RTI Act.

## **18 Foreign Tours of PM/Ministers**

18.1 A large number of RTI queries are being filed on official tours undertaken by Ministers or officials of various Government Ministries/Departments. Information regarding the nature, place and period of foreign and domestic tours of Prime Minister are already disclosed on the PMO's website.

18.2 As per DoPT's OM No. 1/8/2012-IR dated 11/9/2012, Public Authorities may proactively disclose the details of foreign and domestic official tours undertaken by the Minister(s) and officials of the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India and above and Heads of Departments, since 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2012. The disclosures may be updated once every quarter.

1.8.3. Information to be disclosed proactively may contain nature of the official tour, places visited, the period, number of people included in the official delegation and total cost of such travel undertaken. Exemptions under Section 8 of the RTI Act, 2005 may be kept in view while disclosing the information. These instructions would not apply to security and intelligence organisations under the second schedule of the RTI Act, 2005 and CVOs of public authorities.

## **20 Guidelines for digital publication of proactive disclosure under Section 4**

**21** Section 4 lays down that information should be provided through many mediums depending upon the level of the public authority and the recipient of information (for example, in case of Panchayat, wall painting may be more effective means of dissemination of information), and that more and more proactive disclosure would gradually be made through Internet. There is need for more clear guidelines for web-based publication of information for disclosure.

**22** The Department of Information Technology has been working on setting of technical standards for government websites and the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances has published guidelines for websites of Government Departments. These guidelines prescribe the manner in which websites need to be designed and how information should be disclosed. While adhering to the standards of government guidelines as laid down by Department of Information Technology and Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, the following principles additionally should also be kept in view to ensure that websites' disclosures are complete, easily accessible, technology and platform neutral and in a form which conveys the desired information in an effective and user-friendly manner.

- a) It should be the endeavor of all public authorities that all entitlements to citizens and all transactions between the citizen and government are gradually made available through computer based interface. The 'Electronic Delivery of Services Bill, 2012' under formulation in Government of India would provide the necessary impetus.
- b) Websites should contain detailed information from the point of origin to the point of delivery of entitlements/services provided by the Public Authorities to citizens.
- c) Orders of the public authority should be uploaded on the website immediately after they have been issued.
- d) Website should contain all the relevant Acts, Rules, forms and other documents which are normally accessed by citizens.

- e) Websites should have detailed directory of key contacts, details of officials of the Public Authority.
- f) It is obligatory under Section 4(1)(b)(xiv) of the RTI Act for every Public Authority to proactively disclose 'details in respect of the information, available to or held by it, reduced in an electronic form'. The website should therefore indicate which digitally held information is made available publicly over the internet and which is not.
- g) As departments reorganize their systems and processes to enable themselves for electronic service delivery, it is recommended that the requirement of bringing due transparency as provided in the RTI Act is given adequate consideration at the design stage itself.
- h) To maintain reliability of information and its real time updation, information generation in a digital form should be automatically updated on the basis of key work outputs, like a muster roll and salary slip (NREGA in Andhra Pradesh) or formalization of a government order (Andhra Pradesh). Such an approach will lead to automation of proactive disclosure.
- i) Information must be presented from a user's perspective, which may require re-arranging it, simplifying it etc. However, original documents in original formats should continue to be made available because these are needed for community monitoring of government's functioning.
- j) The 'National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy' by the Department of Science and Technology is based on the principle that all publicly funded information should be readily available. The policy has been notified in March, 2012 and the schedule should be strictly adhered to.
- k) Information and data should be presented in open data formats whereby it can be pulled by different Application Protocol Interfaces to be used in different fashions more appropriate to specific contexts and needs. Information/ data can, for instance, be presented in powerful visual ways using visualisation techniques. Such visual representation of information/ data can give insights that may remain largely



hidden in a textual or tabular presentation of data. In some contexts, pictures and audio/videos recordings etc may be more useful. There have been moves in some parts of the country to video record Gram Sabha meetings. A picture of a NREGA worksite, for instance, may tell much more than words can. All such different media and forms should be used for proactive disclosure.

- l) Every webpage displaying information or data proactively disclosed under the RTI Act should, on the top right corner, display the mandatory field 'Date last updated (DD/MM/YY)'.

### **3.0 Guidelines for certain clauses of Section 4(1)(b) to make disclosure more effective**

**3.1** The elements of information listed in the various sub-clauses of Section 4(1)(b) must be disclosed in an integrated manner. For example, the functions and responsibilities of a public authority cannot be understood in isolation from the powers and functions of its employees, the norms that inform its decision making processes and the rules, instructions and manuals that are used in the discharge of its functions. Description of one element presupposes the existence of another. So every public authority must endeavour to integrate the information mentioned in these sub-clauses while preparing voluntary disclosure materials.

**3.2** Considering that disclosure in regard to certain sub-clauses have been relatively weak, detailed guidelines for four sub-clauses are given below:

#### **3.3 Guidelines for section 4(1)(b)(iii) - “the procedure followed in the decision-making processes, including channels of supervision and accountability”.**

**3.3.1** All government departments have specific duties and responsibilities under the respective Allocation of Business Rules (AOB) issued by the appropriate Government. The constitutional provisions and statutes each department is required to implement are clearly laid down in the AOB. The manner of disposal of matters assigned to each Department/Ministry is described in the Transaction of Business Rules (TOB). Additionally, every department would have a specific set of schemes and development programmes which they are required to implement directly or through their subordinate offices or other designated agencies. These documents contain the specific operations that every Public Authority is required to undertake in the course of implementing the programme or scheme. Every operation mandated under the AOB read with the TOB would be linked to a specific decision-making chain. All government officers have to follow laid down office procedure manual or the other rules which gives details of how representations, petitions and applications from citizens must be dealt with. Templates, formats, and basic steps of decision-making are briefly explained in such manuals. These descriptions constitute the elements of decision-making processes in general.

332 Additionally, in the routine work of governance, government functionaries are required to make decisions in a discretionary manner but broad guiding principles are laid down in some rule or the other. For example, the General Financial Rules lay down procedures for a variety of operations relating to government finances. How sanction must be accorded for incurring expenditure; how losses to government must be reported; how responsibility for losses may be fixed on any government servant; how budgets, demand for grants are prepared and submitted; how public works must be sanctioned and executed; how commodities and services may be procured by a public authority; are all explained in these manuals which are updated from time to time. The challenge is to present a simplified version of the decision-making procedure that is of interest to a common citizen.

333 In view of the above, the guidelines for detailing the decision making processes are as follows:

- (a) Every public authority should specifically identify the major outputs/ tangible results/ services/ goods, as applicable, that it is responsible for providing to the public or to whosoever is the client of the public authority.
- (b) In respect of (a) above, the decision-making chain should be identified in the form of a flow chart explaining the rank/grade of the public functionaries involved in the decision-making process and the specific stages in the decision-making hierarchy.
- (c) The powers of each officer including powers of supervision over subordinates involved in the chain of decision-making must also be spelt out next to the flow chart or in a simple bullet-pointed format in a text-box. The exceptional circumstances when such standard decision-making processes may be overridden and by whom, should also be explained clearly. Where decentralization of decision-making has occurred in order to grant greater autonomy to public authorities, such procedures must also be clearly explained.
- (d) This design of presentation should then be extended to cover all statutory and discretionary operations that are part of the public authority's mandate under the AOB read with the TOB.

- (e) In the event of a public authority altering an existing decision-making process or adopting an entirely new process, such changes must be explained in simple language in order to enable people to easily understand the changes made.

**3.4 Guidelines for Section 4(1)(b)(iv) - “the norms set by it for the discharge of its functions”.**

3.4.1 Primarily, the intention of this clause is that every public authority should proactively disclose the standards by which its performance should be judged. Norms may be qualitative or quantitative in nature, or temporal or statutory norms. In order to ensure compliance with this clause, public authorities would need to disclose norms for major functions that are being performed.

3.4.2 Citizen Charters, which are mandatory, for each central Ministry/Department/Authority, are good examples of vehicles created for laying down norms of performance for major functions and for monitoring achievements against those standards.

3.4.3 Wherever norms have been specified for the discharge of its functions by any statute or government orders, they should be proactively disclosed, particularly linking them with the decision making processes as detailed earlier. All Public Authorities should proactively disclose the following:

- a) Defining the services and goods that the particular public authority/office provides directly (or indirectly through any other agency/contractor).
- b) Detailing and describing the processes by which the public can access and/or receive the goods and services that they are entitled to, from the public authority/office along with the forms, if any prescribed, for use by both the applicant and the service providing agency. Links to such forms (online), wherever available, should be given.
- c) Describing the conditions, criteria and priorities under which a person becomes eligible for the goods and services, and consequently the categories of people who are entitled to receive the goods and services.

- d) Defining the quantitative and tangible parameters, (weight, size, frequency etc,) and timelines, that are applicable to the goods and services that are accessible to the public.
- e) Defining the qualitative and quantitative outcomes that each public authority/office plans to achieve through the goods and services that it was obligated to provide.
- f) Laying down individual responsibility for providing the goods and services (who is responsible for delivery/implementation and who is responsible for supervision).

**35 Guidelines for Section 4(1)(b)(xi)- “the budget allocated to each of its agency, indicating the particulars of all plans, proposed expenditures and reports on disbursements made”.**

**35.1** The public authorities while disclosing their budgets shall undertake the following:

- (a) Keeping in view of the technical nature of the government budgets, it is essential that Ministries/Departments prepare simplified versions of their budgets which can be understood easily by general public and place them in public domain. Budgets and their periodic monitoring reports may also be presented in a more user-friendly manner through graphs and tables, etc.
- (b) Outcome budget being prepared by Ministries/Departments of Government of India should be prominently displayed and be used as a basis to identify physical targets planned during the budgetary period and the actual achievement vis-à-vis those targets. A monthly programme implementation calendar method of reporting being followed in Karnataka is a useful model.
- (c) Funds released to various autonomous organizations/ statutory organizations/ attached offices/ Public Sector Enterprises/ Societies/ NGOs/ Corporations etc. should be put on the website on a quarterly basis and budgets of such authorities may be made accessible through links from the website of the Ministry/Department. If a subsidiary does not have a website then the budgets and expenditure reports of

such subsidiary authority may be uploaded on the website of the principal Public Authority.

- (d) Wherever required by law or executive instruction, sector specific allocations and achievements of every department or public authority (where feasible) must be highlighted. For example, budget allocation and target focusing on gender, children, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and religious minorities should be specially highlighted. The sector-wise breakup of these targets and actual outcomes must be given in simplified form to enable the vulnerable segments of society to better understand the budgets of public authorities.

### **3.6 Guidelines for Section 4(1)(b)(xiv) – details in respect of information, available to or held by it, reduced in an electronic form.**

3.6.1 On the one hand, this clause serves as a means of proactively disclosing the progress made in computerizing information under Section 4(1)(a) of the RTI Act in a periodic manner. On the other, it provides people with clarity about the kinds of electronic information that, although not held by the public authority, is available to them. For example the stocks of ration available with individual fair price shops may not be held by the District Civil Supplies office, but may be available at a subordinate formation.

3.6.2 Keeping in view the varied levels of computerization of records and documents in public authorities, data about records that have been digitized may be proactively disclosed on the respective websites, excluding those records /files /information that are exempted under Section 8. The data about digitized record may include the name of the record and any categorization or indexing used; the subject matter and any other information that is required to be compiled in relation to a file as prescribed by Manual of Office Procedure (and to be prescribed by MOP for electronic records that is under finalization by DARPG), the division/ section/ unit/ office where the record is normally held; the person, with designation, responsible for maintaining the record; and the life span of the record, as prescribed in the relevant record retention schedule.

#### **4.0 Compliance with Provisions of *suo motu* (proactive) disclosure under the RTI Act**

**4.1** Each Ministry/Public Authority shall ensure that these guidelines are fully operationalized within a period of 6 months from the date of their issue.

**4.2** Proactive disclosure as per these guidelines would require collating a large quantum of information and digitizing it. For this purpose, Ministries/Public Authorities may engage consultants or outsource such work to expeditiously comply with these guidelines. For this purpose, the plan/non-plan funds of that department may be utilized.

**4.3** The Action Taken Report on the compliance of these guidelines should be sent, along with the URL link, to the Central Information Commission soon after the expiry of the initial period of 6 months.

**4.4** Each Ministry/ Public Authority should get its proactive disclosure package audited by third party every year. The audit should cover compliance with the proactive disclosure guidelines as well as adequacy of the items included in the package. The audit should examine whether there are any other types of information which could be proactively disclosed. Such audit should be done annually and should be communicated to the Central Information Commission annually through publication on their own websites. Further, the task of undertaking transparency audits may be given to the respective Training Institutes under each Ministry/Department/Public Authority and across the States and Union Territories. *"However, in cases where no training institutue exists under the Ministries/Departments/Public Authorities the tasks of undertaking transparency audits may be given to any Government Training Insitutue."* All Public Authorities should proactively disclose the names of the third party auditors on their website. For carrying out third party audit through outside consultants also, Ministries/Public Authorities should utilize their plan/non-plan funds.

**4.5** The Central Information Commission should examine the third-party audit reports for each Ministry/Public Authority and offer advice/recommendations to the concerned Ministries/ Public Authorities.

**4.6** Central Information Commission should carry out sample audit of few of the Ministries/ Public Authorities each year with regard to adequacy of items included as well as compliance of the Ministry/Public Authority with these guidelines.

**4.7** Compliance with the proactive disclosure guidelines, its audit by third party and its communication to the Central Information Commission should be included as RFD target.

## **5.0 Nodal Officer**

**5.1** Each Central Ministry/ Public Authority should appoint a senior officer not below the rank of a Joint Secretary and not below rank of Additional HOD in case of attached offices for ensuring compliance with the proactive disclosure guidelines. The Nodal Officer would work under the supervision of the Secretary of the Ministry/Department or the HOD of the attached office, as the case may be. Nodal Officers of Ministry/Department and HOD separately should also ensure that the formations below the Ministry/Department/Attached Office also disclose the information as per the proactive disclosure guidelines.

## **6.0 Annual Reports to Parliament/Legislatures**

**6.1** Government has issued directions to all Ministries/Departments to include a chapter on RTI Act in their Annual Reports submitted to the Parliament. Details about compliance with proactive disclosure guidelines should mandatorily be included in the relevant chapter in Annual Report of Ministry/Department.

\*\*\*\*\*



No.1/6/2011-IR  
Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions  
Department of Personnel & Training

North Block, New Delhi  
Dated the 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2013

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Implementation of *suo motu* disclosure under Section 4 of RTI Act, 2005 – Issue of guidelines regarding:**

Section 4(1)(b) of the RTI Act lays down the information which should be disclosed by Public Authorities on a *suo motu* or proactive basis. Section 4(2) and Section 4(3) prescribe the method of dissemination of this information. The purpose of *suo motu* disclosures under Section 4 is to place large amount of information in public domain on a proactive basis to make the functioning of the Public Authorities more transparent and also to reduce the need for filing individual RTI applications.

2. Since the promulgation of the Act in 2005, large amount of information relating to functioning of the government is being put in public domain. However, the quality and quantity of proactive disclosure is not up to the desired level. It was felt that the weak implementation of the Section 4 of the RTI Act is partly due to the fact that certain provisions of this Section have not been fully detailed and, in case of certain other provisions there is need for laying down detailed guidelines. Further there is need to set up a compliance mechanism to ensure that requirements under section 4 of the RTI Act are met.

3. In order to address the above, Government of India constituted a Task Force on *suo motu* disclosure under the RTI Act, 2005 in May 2011 which included representatives of civil society organizations active in the field of Right to Information, for strengthening compliance with provisions for *suo motu* or proactive disclosure as given in Section 4 of the RTI Act, 2005. Based on the report of the Task Force, the Government have decided to issue guidelines for *suo motu* disclosure under section 4 of the RTI Act.

4. Guidelines for Central Government Ministries/Departments are on:
  - i. *Suo motu* disclosure of more items under Section 4.
  - ii. Guidelines for digital publication of proactive disclosure under Section 4.
  - iii. Detailing of Section 4(1)(b)(iii), 4(1)(b)(iv), 4(1)(b)(xi) and 4(1)(b)(xiv)
  - iv. Compliance mechanism for *suo motu* disclosure (proactive disclosure) under the RTI Act, 2005.
5. The above guidelines are enclosed. However, it may be kept in mind that proactive disclosure should be done in the local language so that it remains accessible to public. It should be presented in a form that is easily understood and if technical words are used they should be carefully explained. As provided in section 4, disclosure should be made in as many mediums as feasible and disclosures should be kept up to date. The disclosure of Information may be made keeping in mind the provisions of Section 8 to 11 of the RTI Act.
6. Central Government Ministries/ Departments should undertake *suo motu* disclosure and ensure compliance based on these guidelines.
7. The enclosed guidelines may be brought to the notice of all for compliance.

*Manoj Joshi*

(Manoj Joshi)  
Joint Secretary  
Tele : 23093668

1. All the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India
2. Union Public Service Commission, Lok Sabha Secretariat, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Cabinet Secretariat, Central Vigilance Commission, President's Secretariat, Vice-President's Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, Planning Commission, Election Commission.
3. Central Information Commission.
4. Staff Selection Commission, CGO Complex, New Delhi
5. O/o the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.

Copy to : Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs.

## Guidelines on *suo motu* disclosure under Section 4 of the RTI Act

### INDEX

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>1</b>	<i>Suo motu</i> disclosure of more items under Section 4	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	Guidelines for digital publication of proactive disclosure under Section 4	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	Guidelines for certain clauses of Section 4(1)(b) to make disclosure more effective	<b>7</b>
<b>4</b>	Compliance with provisions of <i>suo motu</i> disclosure	<b>12</b>

## **Guidelines on *suo motu* disclosure under Section 4 of the RTI Act**

### **1.0 *Suo motu* disclosure of more items under Section 4**

Sub-section 4(2) of the RTI Act, 2005 requires every public authority to take steps in accordance with the requirements of clause (b) of sub-section 4(1) to provide as much information *suo motu* to the public at regular intervals through various means of communication, including internet, so that the public have minimum resort to use the Act to obtain information. Accordingly, the Public Authorities may proactively disclose the following items also under the *suo motu* disclosure provisions of Section 4:

#### **1.1 Information related to Procurement**

1.1.1 Information relating to procurement made by Public Authorities including publication of notice/tender enquiries, corrigenda thereon, and details of bid awards detailing the name of the supplier of goods/services being procured or the works contracts entered or any such combination of these and the rate and total amount at which such procurement or works contract is to be done should be disclosed. All information disclosable as per Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure's O.M. No 10/1/2011-PPC dated 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 on Mandatory Publication of Tender Enquiries on the Central Public Procurement Portal and O.M. No. 10/3/2012- PPC dated 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 on Implementation of comprehensive end-to-end e-procurement should be disclosed under Section 4. At present the limit is fixed at Rs. 10.00 lakhs. In case of procurements made through DGS&D Rate Contracts or through Kendriya Bhandar/ NCCF, only award details need to be published. However information about procurement which fall within the purview of Section 8 of the RTI Act would be exempt.

#### **1.2 Public Private Partnerships**

1.2.1 If Public services are proposed to be provided through a Public Private Partnership (PPP), all information relating to the PPPs must be disclosed in the public domain by the Public Authority entering into the PPP contract/concession agreement. This may include details of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), if any set up, detailed project reports, concession agreements, operation and maintenance manuals and other documents generated as part of the implementation of the PPP project. The documents under the ambit of the exemption from disclosure of information under section 8(1)(d) and 8(1)(j) of

the RTI Act would not be disclosed *suo motu*. Further, information about fees, tolls, or other kinds of revenue that may be collected under authorization from the Government, information in respect of outputs and outcomes, process of selection of the private sector party may also be proactively disclosed. All payments made under the PPP project may also be disclosed in a periodic manner along with the purpose of making such payment.

### **1.3 Transfer Policy and Transfer Orders**

1.3.1 Transfer policy for different grades/cadres of employees serving in Public Authority should be proactively disclosed. All transfer orders should be publicized through the website or in any other manner listed in Section 4(4) of the Act. These guidelines would not be applicable in cases of transfers made keeping in view sovereignty, integrity, security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State and the exemptions covered under Section 8 of the Act. These instructions would not apply to security and intelligence organizations under the second schedule of the RTI Act.

### **1.4 RTI Applications**

1.4.1 All Public Authorities shall proactively disclose RTI applications and appeals received and their responses, on the websites maintained by Public Authorities with search facility based on key words. RTI applications and appeals received and their responses relating to the personal information of an individual may not be disclosed, as they do not serve any public interest.

### **1.5 CAG & PAC paras**

1.5.1 Public Authorities may proactively disclose the CAG & PAC paras and the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) only after these have been laid on the table of both the houses of the Parliament. However, CAG paras dealing with information about the issues of sovereignty, integrity, security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State and information covered under Section 8 of the RTI Act would be exempt.

### **1.6 Citizens Charter**

1.6.1 Citizens Charter prepared by the Ministry/Department, as part of the Result Framework Document of the department/organization should be proactively disclosed and six monthly report on the performance against the benchmarks set in Citizens Charter should also be displayed on the website of public authorities.

## **1.7 Discretionary and Non-discretionary grants**

1.7.1 All discretionary /non-discretionary grants/ allocations to state governments/ NGOs/Other institutions by Ministry/Department should be placed on the website of the Ministry/Department concerned. Annual Accounts of all legal entities who are provided grants by Public Authorities should be made available through publication, directly or indirectly on the Public Authority's website. Disclosures would be subject to provisions of Section 8 to 11 of the RTI Act.

## **1.8 Foreign Tours of PM/Ministers**

1.8.1 A large number of RTI queries are being filed on official tours undertaken by Ministers or officials of various Government Ministries/Departments. Information regarding the nature, place and period of foreign and domestic tours of Prime Minister are already disclosed on the PMO's website.

1.8.2 As per DoPT's OM No. 1/8/2012-IR dated 11/9/2012, Public Authorities may proactively disclose the details of foreign and domestic official tours undertaken by the Minister(s) and officials of the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India and above and Heads of Departments, since 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2012. The disclosures may be updated once every quarter.

1.8.3. Information to be disclosed proactively may contain nature of the official tour, places visited, the period, number of people included in the official delegation and total cost of such travel undertaken. Exemptions under Section 8 of the RTI Act, 2005 may be kept in view while disclosing the information. These instructions would not apply to security and intelligence organisations under the second schedule of the RTI Act, 2005 and CVOs of public authorities.

## **2.0 Guidelines for digital publication of proactive disclosure under Section 4**

2.1 Section 4 lays down that information should be provided through many mediums depending upon the level of the public authority and the recipient of information (for example, in case of Panchayat, wall painting may be more effective means of dissemination of information), and that more and more proactive disclosure would gradually be made through Internet. There is need for more clear guidelines for web-based publication of information for disclosure.

2.2 The Department of Information Technology has been working on setting of technical standards for government websites and the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances has published guidelines for websites of Government Departments. These guidelines prescribe the manner in which websites need to be designed and how information should be disclosed. While adhering to the standards of government guidelines as laid down by Department of Information Technology and Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, the following principles additionally should also be kept in view to ensure that websites' disclosures are complete, easily accessible, technology and platform neutral and in a form which conveys the desired information in an effective and user-friendly manner.

- a) It should be the endeavor of all public authorities that all entitlements to citizens and all transactions between the citizen and government are gradually made available through computer based interface. The 'Electronic Delivery of Services Bill, 2012' under formulation in Government of India would provide the necessary impetus.
- b) Websites should contain detailed information from the point of origin to the point of delivery of entitlements/services provided by the Public Authorities to citizens.
- c) Orders of the public authority should be uploaded on the website immediately after they have been issued.
- d) Website should contain all the relevant Acts, Rules, forms and other documents which are normally accessed by citizens.

- e) Websites should have detailed directory of key contacts, details of officials of the Public Authority.
- f) It is obligatory under Section 4(1)(b)(xiv) of the RTI Act for every Public Authority to proactively disclose 'details in respect of the information, available to or held by it, reduced in an electronic form'. The website should therefore indicate which digitally held information is made available publicly over the internet and which is not.
- g) As departments reorganize their systems and processes to enable themselves for electronic service delivery, it is recommended that the requirement of bringing due transparency as provided in the RTI Act is given adequate consideration at the design stage itself.
- h) To maintain reliability of information and its real time updation, information generation in a digital form should be automatically updated on the basis of key work outputs, like a muster roll and salary slip (NREGA in Andhra Pradesh) or formalization of a government order (Andhra Pradesh). Such an approach will lead to automation of proactive disclosure.
- i) Information must be presented from a user's perspective, which may require re-arranging it, simplifying it etc. However, original documents in original formats should continue to be made available because these are needed for community monitoring of government's functioning.
- j) The 'National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy' by the Department of Science and Technology is based on the principle that all publicly funded information should be readily available. The policy has been notified in March, 2012 and the schedule should be strictly adhered to.
- k) Information and data should be presented in open data formats whereby it can be pulled by different Application Protocol Interfaces to be used in different fashions more appropriate to specific contexts and needs. Information/ data can, for instance, be presented in powerful visual ways using visualisation techniques. Such visual representation of information/ data can give insights that may remain largely



hidden in a textual or tabular presentation of data. In some contexts, pictures and audio/videos recordings etc may be more useful. There have been moves in some parts of the country to video record Gram Sabha meetings. A picture of a NREGA worksite, for instance, may tell much more than words can. All such different media and forms should be used for proactive disclosure.

- I) Every webpage displaying information or data proactively disclosed under the RTI Act should, on the top right corner, display the mandatory field 'Date last updated (DD/MM/YY)'.

### **3.0 Guidelines for certain clauses of Section 4(1)(b) to make disclosure more effective**

3.1 The elements of information listed in the various sub-clauses of Section 4(1)(b) must be disclosed in an integrated manner. For example, the functions and responsibilities of a public authority cannot be understood in isolation from the powers and functions of its employees, the norms that inform its decision making processes and the rules, instructions and manuals that are used in the discharge of its functions. Description of one element presupposes the existence of another. So every public authority must endeavour to integrate the information mentioned in these sub-clauses while preparing voluntary disclosure materials.

3.2 Considering that disclosure in regard to certain sub-clauses have been relatively weak, detailed guidelines for four sub-clauses are given below:

#### **3.3 Guidelines for section 4(1)(b)(iii) - “the procedure followed in the decision-making processes, including channels of supervision and accountability”.**

3.3.1 All government departments have specific duties and responsibilities under the respective Allocation of Business Rules (AOB) issued by the appropriate Government. The constitutional provisions and statutes each department is required to implement are clearly laid down in the AOB. The manner of disposal of matters assigned to each Department/Ministry is described in the Transaction of Business Rules (TOB). Additionally, every department would have a specific set of schemes and development programmes which they are required to implement directly or through their subordinate offices or other designated agencies. These documents contain the specific operations that every Public Authority is required to undertake in the course of implementing the programme or scheme. Every operation mandated under the AOB read with the TOB would be linked to a specific decision-making chain. All government officers have to follow laid down office procedure manual or the other rules which gives details of how representations, petitions and applications from citizens must be dealt with. Templates, formats, and basic steps of decision-making are briefly explained in such manuals. These descriptions constitute the elements of decision-making processes in general.

3.3.2 Additionally, in the routine work of governance, government functionaries are required to make decisions in a discretionary manner but broad guiding principles are laid down in some rule or the other. For example, the General Financial Rules lay down procedures for a variety of operations relating to government finances. How sanction must be accorded for incurring expenditure; how losses to government must be reported; how responsibility for losses may be fixed on any government servant; how budgets, demand for grants are prepared and submitted; how public works must be sanctioned and executed; how commodities and services may be procured by a public authority; are all explained in these manuals which are updated from time to time. The challenge is to present a simplified version of the decision-making procedure that is of interest to a common citizen.

3.3.3 In view of the above, the guidelines for detailing the decision making processes are as follows:

- (a) Every public authority should specifically identify the major outputs/ tangible results/ services/ goods, as applicable, that it is responsible for providing to the public or to whosoever is the client of the public authority.
- (b) In respect of (a) above, the decision-making chain should be identified in the form of a flow chart explaining the rank/grade of the public functionaries involved in the decision-making process and the specific stages in the decision-making hierarchy.
- (c) The powers of each officer including powers of supervision over subordinates involved in the chain of decision-making must also be spelt out next to the flow chart or in a simple bullet-pointed format in a text-box. The exceptional circumstances when such standard decision-making processes may be overridden and by whom, should also be explained clearly. Where decentralization of decision-making has occurred in order to grant greater autonomy to public authorities, such procedures must also be clearly explained.
- (d) This design of presentation should then be extended to cover all statutory and discretionary operations that are part of the public authority's mandate under the AOB read with the TOB.

- (e) In the event of a public authority altering an existing decision-making process or adopting an entirely new process, such changes must be explained in simple language in order to enable people to easily understand the changes made.

**3.4 Guidelines for Section 4(1)(b)(iv) - “the norms set by it for the discharge of its functions”.**

3.4.1 Primarily, the intention of this clause is that every public authority should proactively disclose the standards by which its performance should be judged. Norms may be qualitative or quantitative in nature, or temporal or statutory norms. In order to ensure compliance with this clause, public authorities would need to disclose norms for major functions that are being performed.

3.4.2 Citizen Charters, which are mandatory, for each central Ministry/Department/Authority, are good examples of vehicles created for laying down norms of performance for major functions and for monitoring achievements against those standards.

3.4.3 Wherever norms have been specified for the discharge of its functions by any statute or government orders, they should be proactively disclosed, particularly linking them with the decision making processes as detailed earlier. All Public Authorities should proactively disclose the following:

- a) Defining the services and goods that the particular public authority/office provides directly (or indirectly through any other agency/contractor).
- b) Detailing and describing the processes by which the public can access and/or receive the goods and services that they are entitled to, from the public authority/office along with the forms, if any prescribed, for use by both the applicant and the service providing agency. Links to such forms (online), wherever available, should be given.
- c) Describing the conditions, criteria and priorities under which a person becomes eligible for the goods and services, and consequently the categories of people who are entitled to receive the goods and services.

- d) Defining the quantitative and tangible parameters, (weight, size, frequency etc,) and timelines, that are applicable to the goods and services that are accessible to the public.
- e) Defining the qualitative and quantitative outcomes that each public authority/office plans to achieve through the goods and services that it was obligated to provide.
- f) Laying down individual responsibility for providing the goods and services (who is responsible for delivery/implementation and who is responsible for supervision).

**3.5 Guidelines for Section 4(1)(b)(xi)- “the budget allocated to each of its agency, indicating the particulars of all plans, proposed expenditures and reports on disbursements made”.**

**3.5.1** The public authorities while disclosing their budgets shall undertake the following:

- (a) Keeping in view of the technical nature of the government budgets, it is essential that Ministries/Departments prepare simplified versions of their budgets which can be understood easily by general public and place them in public domain. Budgets and their periodic monitoring reports may also be presented in a more user-friendly manner through graphs and tables, etc.
- (b) Outcome budget being prepared by Ministries/Departments of Government of India should be prominently displayed and be used as a basis to identify physical targets planned during the budgetary period and the actual achievement vis-à-vis those targets. A monthly programme implementation calendar method of reporting being followed in Karnataka is a useful model.
- (c) Funds released to various autonomous organizations/ statutory organizations/ attached offices/ Public Sector Enterprises/ Societies/ NGOs/ Corporations etc. should be put on the website on a quarterly basis and budgets of such authorities may be made accessible through links from the website of the Ministry/Department. If a subsidiary does not have a website then the budgets and expenditure reports of

such subsidiary authority may be uploaded on the website of the principal Public Authority.

- (d) Wherever required by law or executive instruction, sector specific allocations and achievements of every department or public authority (where feasible) must be highlighted. For example, budget allocation and target focusing on gender, children, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and religious minorities should be specially highlighted. The sector-wise breakup of these targets and actual outcomes must be given in simplified form to enable the vulnerable segments of society to better understand the budgets of public authorities.

### **3.6 Guidelines for Section 4(1)(b)(xiv) – details in respect of information, available to or held by it, reduced in an electronic form.**

3.6.1 On the one hand, this clause serves as a means of proactively disclosing the progress made in computerizing information under Section 4(1)(a) of the RTI Act in a periodic manner. On the other, it provides people with clarity about the kinds of electronic information that, although not held by the public authority, is available to them. For example the stocks of ration available with individual fair price shops may not be held by the District Civil Supplies office, but may be available at a subordinate formation.

3.6.2 Keeping in view the varied levels of computerization of records and documents in public authorities, data about records that have been digitized may be proactively disclosed on the respective websites, excluding those records /files /information that are exempted under Section 8. The data about digitized record may include the name of the record and any categorization or indexing used; the subject matter and any other information that is required to be compiled in relation to a file as prescribed by Manual of Office Procedure (and to be prescribed by MOP for electronic records that is under finalization by DARPG), the division/ section/ unit/ office where the record is normally held; the person, with designation, responsible for maintaining the record; and the life span of the record, as prescribed in the relevant record retention schedule.

#### **4.0 Compliance with Provisions of *suo motu* (proactive) disclosure under the RTI Act**

4.1 Each Ministry/Public Authority shall ensure that these guidelines are fully operationalized within a period of 6 months from the date of their issue.

4.2 Proactive disclosure as per these guidelines would require collating a large quantum of information and digitizing it. For this purpose, Ministries/Public Authorities may engage consultants or outsource such work to expeditiously comply with these guidelines. For this purpose, the plan/non-plan funds of that department may be utilized.

4.3 The Action Taken Report on the compliance of these guidelines should be sent, along with the URL link, to the DoPT and Central Information Commission soon after the expiry of the initial period of 6 months.

4.4 Each Ministry/ Public Authority should get its proactive disclosure package audited by third party every year. The audit should cover compliance with the proactive disclosure guidelines as well as adequacy of the items included in the package. The audit should examine whether there are any other types of information which could be proactively disclosed. Such audit should be done annually and should be communicated to the Central Information Commission annually through publication on their own websites. All Public Authorities should proactively disclose the names of the third party auditors on their website. For carrying out third party audit through outside consultants also, Ministries/Public Authorities should utilize their plan/non-plan funds.

4.5 The Central Information Commission should examine the third-party audit reports for each Ministry/Public Authority and offer advice/recommendations to the concerned Ministries/ Public Authorities.

4.6 Central Information Commission should carry out sample audit of few of the Ministries/ Public Authorities each year with regard to adequacy of items included as well as compliance of the Ministry/Public Authority with these guidelines.

4.7 Compliance with the proactive disclosure guidelines, its audit by third party and its communication to the Central Information Commission should be included as RFD target.

## **5.0 Nodal Officer**

5.1 Each Central Ministry/ Public Authority should appoint a senior officer not below the rank of a Joint Secretary and not below rank of Additional HOD in case of attached offices for ensuring compliance with the proactive disclosure guidelines. The Nodal Officer would work under the supervision of the Secretary of the Ministry/Department or the HOD of the attached office, as the case may be. Nodal Officers of Ministry/Department and HOD separately should also ensure that the formations below the Ministry/Department/Attached Office also disclose the information as per the proactive disclosure guidelines.

## **6.0 Annual Reports to Parliament/Legislatures**

6.1 Government has issued directions to all Ministries/Departments to include a chapter on RTI Act in their Annual Reports submitted to the Parliament. Details about compliance with proactive disclosure guidelines should mandatorily be included in the relevant chapter in Annual Report of Ministry/Department.

\*\*\*\*\*



No.10/2/2008-IR  
Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions  
Department of Personnel & Training

North Block, New Delhi  
Dated: the 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2008

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

Subject: RTI applications received by a public authority regarding information concerning other public authority/authorities.

\*\*\*\*\*

It has been brought to the notice of this Department that requests are made to the public authorities under the Right to Information Act for pieces of information which do not concern those public authorities. Some times, such an information is sought, a part or no part of which is available with the public authority to which the application is made and remaining or whole of the information concerns another public authority or many other public authorities. A question has arisen as to how to deal with such cases.

2. Section 6(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 provides that a person who desires to obtain any information shall make a request to the public information officer (PIO) of the concerned public authority. Section 6(3) provides that where an application is made to a public authority requesting for any information which is held by another public authority or the subject matter of which is more closely connected with the functions of another public authority, the public authority to which such application is made, shall transfer the application to that other public authority. A careful reading of the provisions of sub-section (1) and sub-section(3) of Section 6, suggests that the Act requires an information seeker to address the application to the PIO of the 'concerned public authority'. However, there may be cases in which a person of ordinary prudence may believe that the piece of information sought by him/her would be available with the public authority to which he/she has addressed the application, but is actually held by some another public authority. In such cases, the applicant makes a bonafide mistake of addressing the application to the PIO of a wrong public authority. On the other hand where an applicant addresses the application to the PIO of a public authority, which to a person of ordinary prudence, would not appear to be the concern of that public authority, the applicant does not fulfill his responsibility of addressing the application to the 'concerned public authority'.

3. Given hereinafter are some situations which may arise in the matter and action required to be taken by the public authorities in such cases:

- (i) A person makes an application to a public authority for some information which concerns some another public authority. In such a case, the PIO receiving the application should transfer the application to the concerned public authority under intimation to the applicant. However, if the PIO of the public authority is not able to find out as to which public authority is concerned with the information even after making reasonable efforts to find out the concerned public authority, he should inform the applicant that the information is not available with that public authority and that he is not aware of the particulars of the concerned public authority to which the application could be transferred. It would, however, be the responsibility of the PIO, if an appeal is made against his decision, to establish that he made reasonable efforts to find out the particulars of the concerned public authority.
- (ii) A person makes an application to a public authority for information, only a part of which is available with that public authority and a part of the information concerns some 'another public authority.' In such a case, the PIO should supply the information available with him and a copy of the application should be sent to that another public authority under intimation to the applicant.
- (iii) A person makes an application to a public authority for information, a part of which is available with that public authority and the rest of the information is scattered with more than one other public authorities. In such a case, the PIO of the public authority receiving the application should give information relating to it and advise the applicant to make separate applications to the concerned public authorities for obtaining information from them. If no part of the information sought, is available with it but is scattered with more than one other public authorities, the PIO should inform the applicant that information is not available with the public authority and that the applicant should make separate applications to the concerned public authorities for obtaining information from them. It may be noted that the Act requires the supply of such information only which already exists and is held by the public authority or held under the control of the public authority. It is beyond the scope of the Act for a public authority to create information. Collection of information, parts of which are available with different public authorities, would amount to creation of information which a public authority under the Act is not required to do. At the same time, since the information is not related to any one particular public authority, it is not the case where application should be transferred under sub-section (3) of Section 6 of the Act. It is pertinent to note that sub-section (3) refers to 'another public authority' and not 'other public authorities'. Use of singular form in the Act in this regard is important to note.

- (iv) If a person makes an application to a public authority for some information which is the concern of a public authority under any State Government or the Union Territory Administration, the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) of the public authority receiving the application should inform the applicant that the information may be had from the concerned State Government/UT Administration. Application, in such a case, need not be transferred to the State Government/UT Administration.
4. Contents of this OM may be brought to the notice of all concerned.



(K.G. Verma)  
Director

1. All the Ministries / Departments of the Government of India
2. Union Public Service Commission/ Lok Sabha Sectt./ Rajya Sabha Secretariat/ Cabinet Secretariat/ Central Vigilance Commission/ President's Secretariat/ Vice-President's Secretariat/ Prime Minister's Office/ Planning Commission/Election Commission.
3. Central Information Commission/State Information Commissions.
4. Staff Selection Commission, CGO Complex, New Delhi
5. Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.
6. All officers/Desks/Sections, Department of Personnel & Training and Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare.

Copy to: Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs.

No.F.10/9/2008-IR  
Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, PG and Pension  
Department of Personnel & Training

North Block, New Delhi  
Dated: the 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2008

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

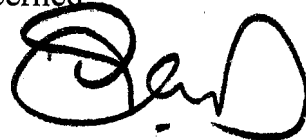
Subject: Payment of fee under the RTI Act by demand draft/bankers cheque/Indian Postal Order.

\*\*\*

The undersigned is directed to say that the Right to Information (Regulation of Fee and Cost) Rules, 2005 provide that a person seeking information under the RTI Act, 2005 can make payment of fee for obtaining information by cash or demand draft or banker's cheque or Indian postal order. According to the rules the demand draft/banker's cheque /IPO should be payable to the Accounts Officer of the concerned public authority. It was brought to the notice of this Department that some public authorities did not accept demand drafts/banker's cheques/Indian Postal Orders drawn in the name of their Accounts Officer and insisted that these should be drawn in the name of Drawing and Disbursing Officer or the Under Secretary or the Section Officer etc. This Department vide OM No.1/2/2007-IR dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2007 issued instructions that the demand drafts/banker's cheques/IPOs made payable to the Accounts Officers of the public authority should not be denied. In spite of the provisions in the rules and instructions of this Department, some public authorities still refuse to accept demand drafts/banker's cheques /IPOs drawn in the name of the Accounts Officer of the public authority.

2. Refusal to accept an application on the ground that the demand draft/banker's cheque/IPO submitted by the applicant has been drawn in the name of the Accounts Officer may amount to refusal to accept the application. It may result into imposition of penalty by the Central Information Commission on the concerned Central Public Information Officer under Section 20 of the Act. All the public authorities should, therefore, ensure that payment of fee by demand draft/banker's cheque/IPO made payable to the Accounts Officer of the public authority is not denied.

3. Contents of this OM may be brought to the notice of all concerned



(K.G. Verma)

Director

Tel: 23092158

1. All the Ministries / Departments of the Government of India
2. Union Public Service Commission/ Lok Sabha Sectt./ Rajya Sabha Secretariat/ Cabinet Secretariat/ Central Vigilance Commission/ President's Secretariat/

Vice-President's Secretariat/ Prime Minister's Office/ Planning Commission/Election Commission.

3. Central Information Commission/State Information Commissions.
4. Staff Selection Commission, CGO Complex, New Delhi
5. O/o the Comptroller&Auditor General of India, 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.
6. All officers/Desks/Sections, DOP&T and Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare.

**Copy to:** Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs.

No.1/6/2011-IR  
Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions  
Department of Personnel & Training

North Block, New Delhi  
Dated the 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2013

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Implementation of *suo motu* disclosure under Section 4 of RTI Act, 2005 – Issue of guidelines regarding:**

Section 4(1)(b) of the RTI Act lays down the information which should be disclosed by Public Authorities on a *suo motu* or proactive basis. Section 4(2) and Section 4(3) prescribe the method of dissemination of this information. The purpose of *suo motu* disclosures under Section 4 is to place large amount of information in public domain on a proactive basis to make the functioning of the Public Authorities more transparent and also to reduce the need for filing individual RTI applications.

2. Since the promulgation of the Act in 2005, large amount of information relating to functioning of the government is being put in public domain. However, the quality and quantity of proactive disclosure is not up to the desired level. It was felt that the weak implementation of the Section 4 of the RTI Act is partly due to the fact that certain provisions of this Section have not been fully detailed and, in case of certain other provisions there is need for laying down detailed guidelines. Further there is need to set up a compliance mechanism to ensure that requirements under section 4 of the RTI Act are met.

3. In order to address the above, Government of India constituted a Task Force on *suo motu* disclosure under the RTI Act, 2005 in May 2011 which included representatives of civil society organizations active in the field of Right to Information, for strengthening compliance with provisions for *suo motu* or proactive disclosure as given in Section 4 of the RTI Act, 2005. Based on the report of the Task Force, the Government have decided to issue guidelines for *suo motu* disclosure under section 4 of the RTI Act.

4. Guidelines for Central Government Ministries/Departments are on:
- Suo motu* disclosure of more items under Section 4.
  - Guidelines for digital publication of proactive disclosure under Section 4.
  - Detailing of Section 4(1)(b)(iii), 4(1)(b)(iv), 4(1)(b)(xi) and 4(1)(b)(xiv)
  - Compliance mechanism for *suo motu* disclosure (proactive disclosure) under the RTI Act, 2005.
5. The above guidelines are enclosed. However, it may be kept in mind that proactive disclosure should be done in the local language so that it remains accessible to public. It should be presented in a form that is easily understood and if technical words are used they should be carefully explained. As provided in section 4, disclosure should be made in as many mediums as feasible and disclosures should be kept up to date. The disclosure of Information may be made keeping in mind the provisions of Section 8 to 11 of the RTI Act.
6. Central Government Ministries/ Departments should undertake *suo motu* disclosure and ensure compliance based on these guidelines.
7. The enclosed guidelines may be brought to the notice of all for compliance.

*Manoj Joshi*

(Manoj Joshi)  
Joint Secretary  
Tele : 23093668

1. All the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India
2. Union Public Service Commission, Lok Sabha Secretariat, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Cabinet Secretariat, Central Vigilance Commission, President's Secretariat, Vice-President's Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, Planning Commission, Election Commission.
3. Central Information Commission.
4. Staff Selection Commission, CGO Complex, New Delhi
5. O/o the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.

Copy to : Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs.

## Guidelines on *suo motu* disclosure under Section 4 of the RTI Act

### INDEX

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>1</b>	<i>Suo motu</i> disclosure of more items under Section 4	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	Guidelines for digital publication of proactive disclosure under Section 4	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	Guidelines for certain clauses of Section 4(1)(b) to make disclosure more effective	<b>7</b>
<b>4</b>	Compliance with provisions of <i>suo motu</i> disclosure	<b>12</b>



## **Guidelines on *suo motu* disclosure under Section 4 of the RTI Act**

### **1.0 *Suo motu* disclosure of more items under Section 4**

Sub-section 4(2) of the RTI Act, 2005 requires every public authority to take steps in accordance with the requirements of clause (b) of sub-section 4(1) to provide as much information *suo motu* to the public at regular intervals through various means of communication, including internet, so that the public have minimum resort to use the Act to obtain information. Accordingly, the Public Authorities may proactively disclose the following items also under the *suo motu* disclosure provisions of Section 4:

#### **1.1 Information related to Procurement**

1.1.1 Information relating to procurement made by Public Authorities including publication of notice/tender enquiries, corrigenda thereon, and details of bid awards detailing the name of the supplier of goods/services being procured or the works contracts entered or any such combination of these and the rate and total amount at which such procurement or works contract is to be done should be disclosed. All information disclosable as per Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure's O.M. No 10/1/2011-PPC dated 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 on Mandatory Publication of Tender Enquiries on the Central Public Procurement Portal and O.M. No. 10/3/2012- PPC dated 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 on Implementation of comprehensive end-to-end e-procurement should be disclosed under Section 4. At present the limit is fixed at Rs. 10.00 lakhs. In case of procurements made through DGS&D Rate Contracts or through Kendriya Bhandar/ NCCF, only award details need to be published. However information about procurement which fall within the purview of Section 8 of the RTI Act would be exempt.

#### **1.2 Public Private Partnerships**

1.2.1 If Public services are proposed to be provided through a Public Private Partnership (PPP), all information relating to the PPPs must be disclosed in the public domain by the Public Authority entering into the PPP contract/concession agreement. This may include details of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), if any set up, detailed project reports, concession agreements, operation and maintenance manuals and other documents generated as part of the implementation of the PPP project. The documents under the ambit of the exemption from disclosure of information under section 8(1)(d) and 8(1)(j) of

the RTI Act would not be disclosed *suo motu*. Further, information about fees, tolls, or other kinds of revenue that may be collected under authorization from the Government, information in respect of outputs and outcomes, process of selection of the private sector party may also be proactively disclosed. All payments made under the PPP project may also be disclosed in a periodic manner along with the purpose of making such payment.

### **1.3 Transfer Policy and Transfer Orders**

1.3.1 Transfer policy for different grades/cadres of employees serving in Public Authority should be proactively disclosed. All transfer orders should be publicized through the website or in any other manner listed in Section 4(4) of the Act. These guidelines would not be applicable in cases of transfers made keeping in view sovereignty, integrity, security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State and the exemptions covered under Section 8 of the Act. These instructions would not apply to security and intelligence organizations under the second schedule of the RTI Act.

### **1.4 RTI Applications**

1.4.1 All Public Authorities shall proactively disclose RTI applications and appeals received and their responses, on the websites maintained by Public Authorities with search facility based on key words. RTI applications and appeals received and their responses relating to the personal information of an individual may not be disclosed, as they do not serve any public interest.

### **1.5 CAG & PAC paras**

1.5.1 Public Authorities may proactively disclose the CAG & PAC paras and the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) only after these have been laid on the table of both the houses of the Parliament. However, CAG paras dealing with information about the issues of sovereignty, integrity, security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State and information covered under Section 8 of the RTI Act would be exempt.

### **1.6 Citizens Charter**

1.6.1 Citizens Charter prepared by the Ministry/Department, as part of the Result Framework Document of the department/organization should be proactively disclosed and six monthly report on the performance against the benchmarks set in Citizens Charter should also be displayed on the website of public authorities.

## **1.7 Discretionary and Non-discretionary grants**

1.7.1 All discretionary /non-discretionary grants/ allocations to state governments/ NGOs/Other institutions by Ministry/Department should be placed on the website of the Ministry/Department concerned. Annual Accounts of all legal entities who are provided grants by Public Authorities should be made available through publication, directly or indirectly on the Public Authority's website. Disclosures would be subject to provisions of Section 8 to 11 of the RTI Act.

## **1.8 Foreign Tours of PM/Ministers**

1.8.1 A large number of RTI queries are being filed on official tours undertaken by Ministers or officials of various Government Ministries/Departments. Information regarding the nature, place and period of foreign and domestic tours of Prime Minister are already disclosed on the PMO's website.

1.8.2 As per DoPT's OM No. 1/8/2012-IR dated 11/9/2012, Public Authorities may proactively disclose the details of foreign and domestic official tours undertaken by the Minister(s) and officials of the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India and above and Heads of Departments, since 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2012. The disclosures may be updated once every quarter.

1.8.3. Information to be disclosed proactively may contain nature of the official tour, places visited, the period, number of people included in the official delegation and total cost of such travel undertaken. Exemptions under Section 8 of the RTI Act, 2005 may be kept in view while disclosing the information. These instructions would not apply to security and intelligence organisations under the second schedule of the RTI Act, 2005 and CVOs of public authorities.

## **2.0 Guidelines for digital publication of proactive disclosure under Section 4**

2.1 Section 4 lays down that information should be provided through many mediums depending upon the level of the public authority and the recipient of information (for example, in case of Panchayat, wall painting may be more effective means of dissemination of information), and that more and more proactive disclosure would gradually be made through Internet. There is need for more clear guidelines for web-based publication of information for disclosure.

2.2 The Department of Information Technology has been working on setting of technical standards for government websites and the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances has published guidelines for websites of Government Departments. These guidelines prescribe the manner in which websites need to be designed and how information should be disclosed. While adhering to the standards of government guidelines as laid down by Department of Information Technology and Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, the following principles additionally should also be kept in view to ensure that websites' disclosures are complete, easily accessible, technology and platform neutral and in a form which conveys the desired information in an effective and user-friendly manner.

- a) It should be the endeavor of all public authorities that all entitlements to citizens and all transactions between the citizen and government are gradually made available through computer based interface. The 'Electronic Delivery of Services Bill, 2012' under formulation in Government of India would provide the necessary impetus.
- b) Websites should contain detailed information from the point of origin to the point of delivery of entitlements/services provided by the Public Authorities to citizens.
- c) Orders of the public authority should be uploaded on the website immediately after they have been issued.
- d) Website should contain all the relevant Acts, Rules, forms and other documents which are normally accessed by citizens.

- e) Websites should have detailed directory of key contacts, details of officials of the Public Authority.
- f) It is obligatory under Section 4(1)(b)(xiv) of the RTI Act for every Public Authority to proactively disclose 'details in respect of the information, available to or held by it, reduced in an electronic form'. The website should therefore indicate which digitally held information is made available publicly over the internet and which is not.
- g) As departments reorganize their systems and processes to enable themselves for electronic service delivery, it is recommended that the requirement of bringing due transparency as provided in the RTI Act is given adequate consideration at the design stage itself.
- h) To maintain reliability of information and its real time updation, information generation in a digital form should be automatically updated on the basis of key work outputs, like a muster roll and salary slip (NREGA in Andhra Pradesh) or formalization of a government order (Andhra Pradesh). Such an approach will lead to automation of proactive disclosure.
- i) Information must be presented from a user's perspective, which may require re-arranging it, simplifying it etc. However, original documents in original formats should continue to be made available because these are needed for community monitoring of government's functioning.
- j) The 'National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy' by the Department of Science and Technology is based on the principle that all publicly funded information should be readily available. The policy has been notified in March, 2012 and the schedule should be strictly adhered to.
- k) Information and data should be presented in open data formats whereby it can be pulled by different Application Protocol Interfaces to be used in different fashions more appropriate to specific contexts and needs. Information/ data can, for instance, be presented in powerful visual ways using visualisation techniques. Such visual representation of information/ data can give insights that may remain largely

hidden in a textual or tabular presentation of data. In some contexts, pictures and audio/videos recordings etc may be more useful. There have been moves in some parts of the country to video record Gram Sabha meetings. A picture of a NREGA worksite, for instance, may tell much more than words can. All such different media and forms should be used for proactive disclosure.

- I) Every webpage displaying information or data proactively disclosed under the RTI Act should, on the top right corner, display the mandatory field 'Date last updated (DD/MM/YY)'.

### **3.0 Guidelines for certain clauses of Section 4(1)(b) to make disclosure more effective**

3.1 The elements of information listed in the various sub-clauses of Section 4(1)(b) must be disclosed in an integrated manner. For example, the functions and responsibilities of a public authority cannot be understood in isolation from the powers and functions of its employees, the norms that inform its decision making processes and the rules, instructions and manuals that are used in the discharge of its functions. Description of one element presupposes the existence of another. So every public authority must endeavour to integrate the information mentioned in these sub-clauses while preparing voluntary disclosure materials.

3.2 Considering that disclosure in regard to certain sub-clauses have been relatively weak, detailed guidelines for four sub-clauses are given below:

#### **3.3 Guidelines for section 4(1)(b)(iii) - “the procedure followed in the decision-making processes, including channels of supervision and accountability”.**

3.3.1 All government departments have specific duties and responsibilities under the respective Allocation of Business Rules (AOB) issued by the appropriate Government. The constitutional provisions and statutes each department is required to implement are clearly laid down in the AOB. The manner of disposal of matters assigned to each Department/Ministry is described in the Transaction of Business Rules (TOB). Additionally, every department would have a specific set of schemes and development programmes which they are required to implement directly or through their subordinate offices or other designated agencies. These documents contain the specific operations that every Public Authority is required to undertake in the course of implementing the programme or scheme. Every operation mandated under the AOB read with the TOB would be linked to a specific decision-making chain. All government officers have to follow laid down office procedure manual or the other rules which gives details of how representations, petitions and applications from citizens must be dealt with. Templates, formats, and basic steps of decision-making are briefly explained in such manuals. These descriptions constitute the elements of decision-making processes in general.

3.3.2 Additionally, in the routine work of governance, government functionaries are required to make decisions in a discretionary manner but broad guiding principles are laid down in some rule or the other. For example, the General Financial Rules lay down procedures for a variety of operations relating to government finances. How sanction must be accorded for incurring expenditure; how losses to government must be reported; how responsibility for losses may be fixed on any government servant; how budgets, demand for grants are prepared and submitted; how public works must be sanctioned and executed; how commodities and services may be procured by a public authority; are all explained in these manuals which are updated from time to time. The challenge is to present a simplified version of the decision-making procedure that is of interest to a common citizen.

3.3.3 In view of the above, the guidelines for detailing the decision making processes are as follows:

- (a) Every public authority should specifically identify the major outputs/ tangible results/ services/ goods, as applicable, that it is responsible for providing to the public or to whosoever is the client of the public authority.
- (b) In respect of (a) above, the decision-making chain should be identified in the form of a flow chart explaining the rank/grade of the public functionaries involved in the decision-making process and the specific stages in the decision-making hierarchy.
- (c) The powers of each officer including powers of supervision over subordinates involved in the chain of decision-making must also be spelt out next to the flow chart or in a simple bullet-pointed format in a text-box. The exceptional circumstances when such standard decision-making processes may be overridden and by whom, should also be explained clearly. Where decentralization of decision-making has occurred in order to grant greater autonomy to public authorities, such procedures must also be clearly explained.
- (d) This design of presentation should then be extended to cover all statutory and discretionary operations that are part of the public authority's mandate under the AOB read with the TOB.



- (e) In the event of a public authority altering an existing decision-making process or adopting an entirely new process, such changes must be explained in simple language in order to enable people to easily understand the changes made.

**3.4 Guidelines for Section 4(1)(b)(iv) - “the norms set by it for the discharge of its functions”.**

3.4.1 Primarily, the intention of this clause is that every public authority should proactively disclose the standards by which its performance should be judged. Norms may be qualitative or quantitative in nature, or temporal or statutory norms. In order to ensure compliance with this clause, public authorities would need to disclose norms for major functions that are being performed.

3.4.2 Citizen Charters, which are mandatory, for each central Ministry/Department/Authority, are good examples of vehicles created for laying down norms of performance for major functions and for monitoring achievements against those standards.

3.4.3 Wherever norms have been specified for the discharge of its functions by any statute or government orders, they should be proactively disclosed, particularly linking them with the decision making processes as detailed earlier. All Public Authorities should proactively disclose the following:

- a) Defining the services and goods that the particular public authority/office provides directly (or indirectly through any other agency/contractor).
- b) Detailing and describing the processes by which the public can access and/or receive the goods and services that they are entitled to, from the public authority/office along with the forms, if any prescribed, for use by both the applicant and the service providing agency. Links to such forms (online), wherever available, should be given.
- c) Describing the conditions, criteria and priorities under which a person becomes eligible for the goods and services, and consequently the categories of people who are entitled to receive the goods and services.

- d) Defining the quantitative and tangible parameters, (weight, size, frequency etc,) and timelines, that are applicable to the goods and services that are accessible to the public.
- e) Defining the qualitative and quantitative outcomes that each public authority/office plans to achieve through the goods and services that it was obligated to provide.
- f) Laying down individual responsibility for providing the goods and services (who is responsible for delivery/implementation and who is responsible for supervision).

**3.5 Guidelines for Section 4(1)(b)(xi)- “the budget allocated to each of its agency, indicating the particulars of all plans, proposed expenditures and reports on disbursements made”.**

3.5.1 The public authorities while disclosing their budgets shall undertake the following:

- (a) Keeping in view of the technical nature of the government budgets, it is essential that Ministries/Departments prepare simplified versions of their budgets which can be understood easily by general public and place them in public domain. Budgets and their periodic monitoring reports may also be presented in a more user-friendly manner through graphs and tables, etc.
- (b) Outcome budget being prepared by Ministries/Departments of Government of India should be prominently displayed and be used as a basis to identify physical targets planned during the budgetary period and the actual achievement vis-à-vis those targets. A monthly programme implementation calendar method of reporting being followed in Karnataka is a useful model.
- (c) Funds released to various autonomous organizations/ statutory organizations/ attached offices/ Public Sector Enterprises/ Societies/ NGOs/ Corporations etc. should be put on the website on a quarterly basis and budgets of such authorities may be made accessible through links from the website of the Ministry/Department. If a subsidiary does not have a website then the budgets and expenditure reports of

such subsidiary authority may be uploaded on the website of the principal Public Authority.

- (d) Wherever required by law or executive instruction, sector specific allocations and achievements of every department or public authority (where feasible) must be highlighted. For example, budget allocation and target focusing on gender, children, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and religious minorities should be specially highlighted. The sector-wise breakup of these targets and actual outcomes must be given in simplified form to enable the vulnerable segments of society to better understand the budgets of public authorities.

### **3.6 Guidelines for Section 4(1)(b)(xiv) – details in respect of information, available to or held by it, reduced in an electronic form.**

3.6.1 On the one hand, this clause serves as a means of proactively disclosing the progress made in computerizing information under Section 4(1)(a) of the RTI Act in a periodic manner. On the other, it provides people with clarity about the kinds of electronic information that, although not held by the public authority, is available to them. For example the stocks of ration available with individual fair price shops may not be held by the District Civil Supplies office, but may be available at a subordinate formation.

3.6.2 Keeping in view the varied levels of computerization of records and documents in public authorities, data about records that have been digitized may be proactively disclosed on the respective websites, excluding those records /files /information that are exempted under Section 8. The data about digitized record may include the name of the record and any categorization or indexing used; the subject matter and any other information that is required to be compiled in relation to a file as prescribed by Manual of Office Procedure (and to be prescribed by MOP for electronic records that is under finalization by DARPG), the division/ section/ unit/ office where the record is normally held; the person, with designation, responsible for maintaining the record; and the life span of the record, as prescribed in the relevant record retention schedule.

#### **4.0 Compliance with Provisions of *suo motu* (proactive) disclosure under the RTI Act**

4.1 Each Ministry/Public Authority shall ensure that these guidelines are fully operationalized within a period of 6 months from the date of their issue.

4.2 Proactive disclosure as per these guidelines would require collating a large quantum of information and digitizing it. For this purpose, Ministries/Public Authorities may engage consultants or outsource such work to expeditiously comply with these guidelines. For this purpose, the plan/non-plan funds of that department may be utilized.

4.3 The Action Taken Report on the compliance of these guidelines should be sent, along with the URL link, to the DoPT and Central Information Commission soon after the expiry of the initial period of 6 months.

4.4 Each Ministry/ Public Authority should get its proactive disclosure package audited by third party every year. The audit should cover compliance with the proactive disclosure guidelines as well as adequacy of the items included in the package. The audit should examine whether there are any other types of information which could be proactively disclosed. Such audit should be done annually and should be communicated to the Central Information Commission annually through publication on their own websites. All Public Authorities should proactively disclose the names of the third party auditors on their website. For carrying out third party audit through outside consultants also, Ministries/Public Authorities should utilize their plan/non-plan funds.

4.5 The Central Information Commission should examine the third-party audit reports for each Ministry/Public Authority and offer advice/recommendations to the concerned Ministries/ Public Authorities.

4.6 Central Information Commission should carry out sample audit of few of the Ministries/ Public Authorities each year with regard to adequacy of items included as well as compliance of the Ministry/Public Authority with these guidelines.

4.7 Compliance with the proactive disclosure guidelines, its audit by third party and its communication to the Central Information Commission should be included as RFD target.

## **5.0 Nodal Officer**

5.1 Each Central Ministry/ Public Authority should appoint a senior officer not below the rank of a Joint Secretary and not below rank of Additional HOD in case of attached offices for ensuring compliance with the proactive disclosure guidelines. The Nodal Officer would work under the supervision of the Secretary of the Ministry/Department or the HOD of the attached office, as the case may be. Nodal Officers of Ministry/Department and HOD separately should also ensure that the formations below the Ministry/Department/Attached Office also disclose the information as per the proactive disclosure guidelines.

## **6.0 Annual Reports to Parliament/Legislatures**

6.1 Government has issued directions to all Ministries/Departments to include a chapter on RTI Act in their Annual Reports submitted to the Parliament. Details about compliance with proactive disclosure guidelines should mandatorily be included in the relevant chapter in Annual Report of Ministry/Department.

\*\*\*\*\*

No: 1/34/2013-IR (Pt.)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions  
Department of Personnel and Training  
IR Division

North Block, New Delhi-110001  
Dated: 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

Office Memorandum

**Subject:-Third Party Audit under RTI Act 2005, by any Government Training Institute, in respect of Ministry/Department/Public Authority -reg.**

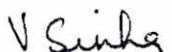
The undersigned is directed to invite attention to the Guidelines issued by this Department vide OM No.1/6/2011-IR dated 15.04.2013 which were reiterated on 07.11.2019 with slight modification on implementation of suo motu disclosure by all Public Authorities (PAs) under Section 4 of the RTI Act and subsequently carrying out the third party audit of their proactive disclosure.

2. Further, vide OM No.1/34/2013-IR dated 30.06.2016 and OM of even number dated 15.10.2019, the provision related to third party audit of suo motu disclosure by the PAs was clarified and relaxed and it was provided that *the task of undertaking transparency audits may be given to respective Government Training Institutes by Ministry/Department/Public Authority and across the States and Union Territories. However, in cases where no Training Institute exists under the Ministry/Department/Public Authority, the task of undertaking transparency audits may be given to any Government Training institute.*

3. This department is in receipt of multiple requests from different Public Authorities seeking relaxation/clarifications in respect of provisions related to third party audit of proactive disclosure in implementation of the Section 4 of the RTI Act on account of substantial difference in audit cost charged by different auditing training institutes, shortage of manpower/adequately trained man-power, pre-engagement of the training institute with its scheduled training activities etc .

4. The issue has been examined in view of the difficulties being faced by the Public Authorities in undertaking the third party audit of their proactive disclosures in terms of guidelines dated 07.11.2019 and it has been decided that ***the task of undertaking transparency audits may be given to any Government Training Institutes by Ministry/Department /Public Authority, under the Central or State Governments.***

5. Accordingly, all the Ministries/Departments are requested to take appropriate action and ensure that the above instructions are communicated to their Attached and Subordinate Offices/PSUs/Public Authorities for wide implementation and compliance in order to carry out the third party audit of their proactive disclosure. All the above referred OMs are accessible at [www.dopt.gov.in](http://www.dopt.gov.in) – Notification – OMs& Orders – RTI.

  
(Varsha Sinha)  
Joint Secretary  
Tel: 23092755

To

The Secretary to all Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India

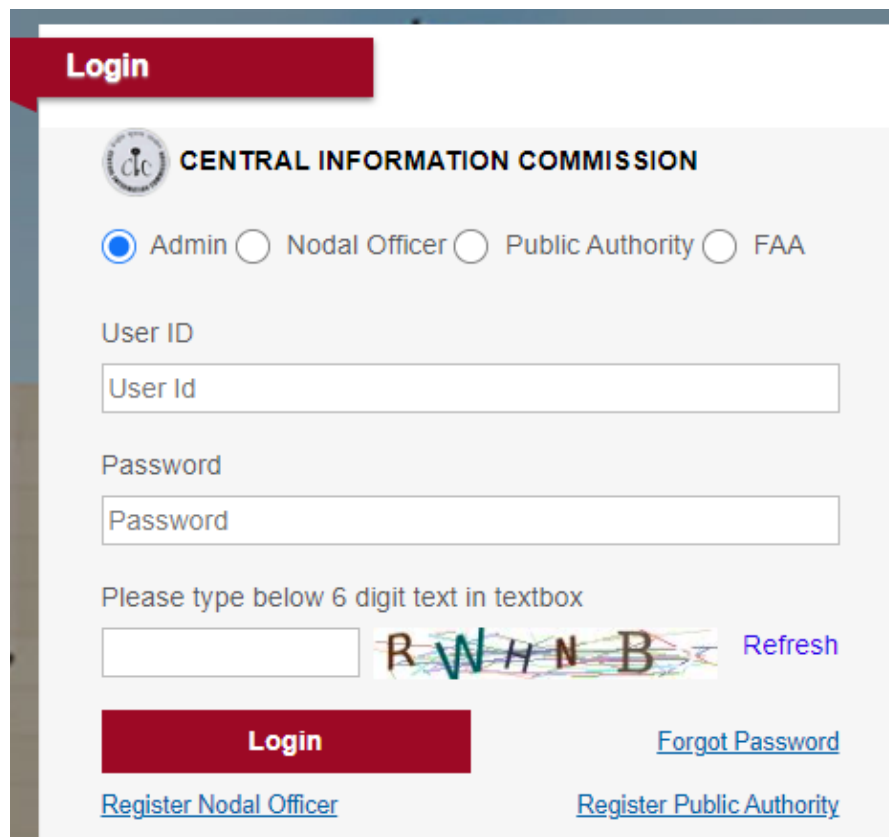
Copy to:

- (i) Secretary, Central Information Commission, Baba Gangnath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067
- (ii) Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs

# Central Information Commission


## Guideline for PA MODULE

The PA Module website address is – [www.dsscic.nic.in/users/pn-login](http://www.dsscic.nic.in/users/pn-login) or visit [www.cic.gov.in](http://www.cic.gov.in)  
-> Public Authority -> Submit Quarterly Return/ Transparency Audit. The following window will appear:



The screenshot shows the login interface for the Central Information Commission (CIC). At the top, there is a red banner with the word "Login" in white. Below this, the CIC logo is displayed next to the text "CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION". There are four radio buttons for user roles: "Admin" (selected), "Nodal Officer", "Public Authority", and "FAA". Below the radio buttons are two text input fields labeled "User ID" and "Password". Under the "Password" field, there is a prompt "Please type below 6 digit text in textbox" followed by a small input box and a CAPTCHA image showing the letters "R W H N B". To the right of the CAPTCHA is a "Refresh" link. At the bottom, there is a red "Login" button, a "Forgot Password" link, and two links: "Register Nodal Officer" and "Register Public Authority".


**Login**

 **CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION**

☒ Admin ☐ Nodal Officer ☐ Public Authority ☐ FAA

User ID

Password

Please type below 6 digit text in textbox  
  [Refresh](#)

**Login** [Forgot Password](#)

[Register Nodal Officer](#) [Register Public Authority](#)


# **Guidelines For the Nodal Officer**



## 1. For Nodal Officer Registration:-

Click on the Nodal Officer radio button then click on Register Nodal Officer link

**Login**

 **CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION**

☐ Admin ☒ Nodal Officer ☐ Public Authority ☐ FAA

\*Ministry/Independent Department

--Select Ministry--

Password

Password

Please type below 6 digit text in textbox

R W H N B Refresh

**Login**

[Forgot Password](#)

[Register Nodal Officer](#) [Register Public Authority](#)

After click on the hyper link **Nodal Officer Registration Page** will open, fill all the required details (red star \* mark is mandatory field).

## Registration Form Of Nodal Officer

Ministry/Independent Department\*

Ministry of Commerce & Industry ▼

Department\*

Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion ▼

### Coordinating Officers Details

Officer Name\*

Enter Officer Name

Designation\*

Enter Designation

Contact Address\*

Enter Contact Address

State\*

--Select state-- ▼

City

Enter City

Pincode\*

Enter Pincode

Email Address\*

Enter Email Address

Mobile Number\*

Enter Mobile Number

Phone No.

Enter Phone No

Fax No.(If Any)

Enter Fax No

Password\*

Enter Password

Confirm Password\*

Enter Confirm Password

Submit

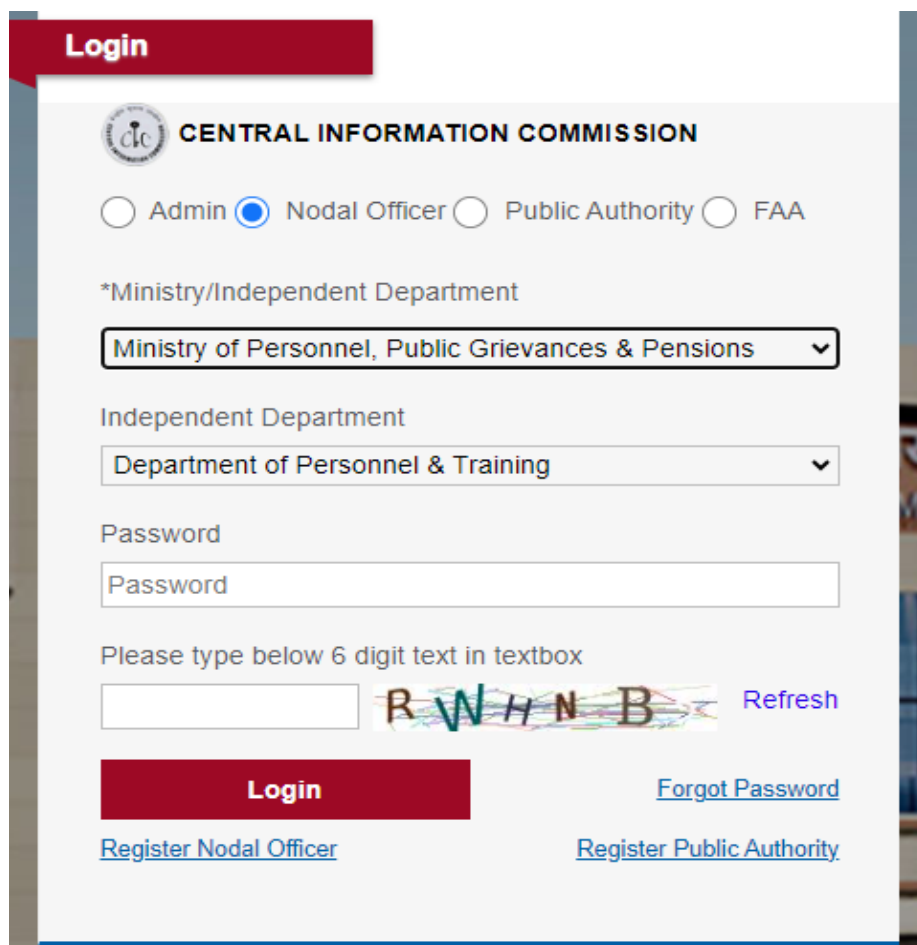
Cancel

After filling all the details click on Submit button.

It will give message "Nodal officer added successfully".


**(After Registration of Nodal Officer , contact CIC Admin. Admin will approve Nodal Officer, then Nodal Officer can login.**

## Login Window For Nodal Officer



The screenshot shows a login window for the Central Information Commission. At the top, there is a red header with the word "Login" in white. Below the header, the Central Information Commission logo is displayed next to the text "CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION". Underneath, there are four radio buttons for user roles: "Admin", "Nodal Officer" (which is selected), "Public Authority", and "FAA". Below the radio buttons, there is a label "\*Ministry/Independent Department" followed by a dropdown menu showing "Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions". Below this, there is a label "Independent Department" followed by a dropdown menu showing "Department of Personnel & Training". Below the dropdowns, there is a label "Password" followed by a password input field. Below the password field, there is a label "Please type below 6 digit text in textbox" followed by a captcha image showing the letters "R W H N B" and a "Refresh" link. At the bottom, there is a red "Login" button, a blue link "Forgot Password", a blue link "Register Nodal Officer", and a blue link "Register Public Authority".

**Login**

 **CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION**

☐ Admin ☒ Nodal Officer ☐ Public Authority ☐ FAA

\*Ministry/Independent Department

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions

Independent Department

Department of Personnel & Training

Password

Password

Please type below 6 digit text in textbox

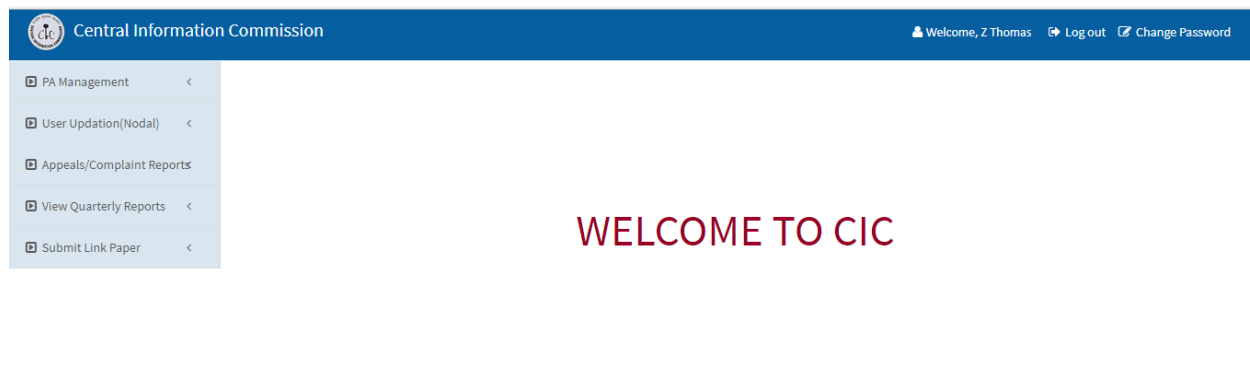
R W H N B Refresh

**Login** [Forgot Password](#)

[Register Nodal Officer](#) [Register Public Authority](#)

After opening the above window click on Nodal officer radio button then select Ministry/ Independent department, Department and fill the password thereafter enter captcha then click on Login button.

## After Successful Login following window will appear



## Functionality of Nodal officer

### PA Management:-

Nodal Officer has right to Add Public Authority (PA) , To add click on PA Management -> Create PA. The following window will appear, Now type the PA Name and select PA Category then Click on SAVE Button.

Sr. No	Ministry Name	Public Authority Name	Public Authority Code	Public Authority Category	Edit	Remove
1	Department Of Personnel & Training	ISTM	INSTM	Govt. Autonomous Body	Update	Remove
2	Department Of Personnel & Training	Staff Selection Commission	SSCOM	Govt. Autonomous Body	Update	Remove
3	Department Of Personnel & Training	Central Administrative Tribunal	CADMT	Govt. Autonomous Body	Update	Remove
4	Department Of Personnel & Training	LBSNAA	LBSNA	Govt. Autonomous Body	Update	Remove
5	Department Of Personnel & Training	Union Public Service Commission	UPSCM	Govt. Autonomous Body	Update	Remove
6	Department Of Personnel & Training	CBI	CBRUI	Govt. Autonomous Body	Update	Remove
7	Department Of Personnel & Training	Department Of Personnel & Training	DOP&T	Department Under Ministry	Update	Remove
8	Department Of Personnel & Training	Central Information Commission	CICOM	Govt. Autonomous Body	Update	Remove

After addition of the PA, CIC Admin will map the PA with 5 digit unique code.

**List PA :-** All registered PA list will come.

PA Management

Create PA

List PA

User Updation(Nodal)

Appeals/Complaint Reports

View Quarterly Reports

Submit Link Paper

List Of Public Authorities

Ministry/Independent Department

Department Of Personnel & Training

Public Authority Name \*

Enter Public Authority Name

Search

Cancel

Display

10

Records

Export to Excel

List of Public Authorities

S.NO	Ministry/Independent Department	Public Authority	Officer Name	Address	Email ID	Mobile No	Last 6 Digits Of Aadhar ID	View Registration Form	Status
1	Department Of Personnel & Training	Union Public Service Commission	GOPAL	ROOM NO -2, UPSC, DHAULPUR HOUSE, NEW DELHI	Upscrtladmn@gmail.Com	9818099675	170823102842	Change	Deactivate
2	Department Of Personnel & Training	Central Information Commission	S P BECK	CIC, ROOM NO-301, AGUST KRANTI BHAWAN, BIKAJI CAMA PLACE, NEW DELHI	Sp.Beck@Nic.In	9971159904	170817151258	Change	Deactivate

Showing 1 of 1 Pages of 2 Records


< Previous

Next >

## User Updation :-

For updation of personal details.

User Updation(Nodal) -> Update Personal details -> Save



Central Information Commission

PA Management

User Updation(Nodal)

Update Personal Details

Appeals/Complaint Reports

View Quarterly Reports

Submit Link Paper

Update Nodal Officer Profile

Ministry/Independent Department\*

Department Of Personnel & Training

Coordinating Officers Details

Officer Name\*

Z Thomas

Designation\*

Section Officer

Contact Address\*

DOPT, North Block, New delhi

State\*

Delhi

District\*

Central Delhi

City

delhi

Pincode

Enter Pincode

Email Address\*

sorti-dopt@nic.in

Mobile Number\*

9013961115

Phone No.

Enter Phone No

Fax No.(If Any)

Enter Fax No

Save

Cancel

## View Appeal /Complaint reports :-

To View Appeal /Complaint Report -----

Appeal Complaint reports -> View Appeals/Complaints (Nodal)

PA Management <

User Updation(Nodal) <

Appeals/Complaint Reports

» View Appeals/Complaint(Nodal)

» Cause List(Nodal)

» View Decision(Nodal)

View Quarterly Reports <

Submit Link Paper <

Appeal/ Complaint Report

Both

Appeal

Complaint

Date Range

Active/Disposed

ACTIVE

Search

Cancel

Display 10

Records

FileNo:

Applicant Name:

Filter

Reset


Print

Export to Excel

S.No	File Number	Date	Applicant Name	View PDF
1	CIC/SSCOM/A/2017/127872	23-08-2017	PARVEEN KUMAR	View
2	CIC/DOP&T/A/2017/157996	23-08-2017	RAM AWATAR SINGH	View
3	CIC/C3RUI/A/2017/157735	23-08-2017	G B GOYAL	View
4	CIC/C/COM/A/2017/157494	21-08-2017	JAGDISH KUMAR	View
5	CIC/DOP&T/A/2017/157000	13-08-2017	NIRAJ KUMAR	View
6	CIC/C3RUI/A/2017/156884	13-08-2017	RADHA MOHAN SHARMA	View

## View Quarterly Reports (to view the quarterly report submitted by PA's)

View quarterly Reports -> View Quarterly Reports(Nodal)


Central Information Commission

PA Management <

User Updation(Nodal) <

Appeals/Complaint Reports

View Quarterly Reports

» View Quarterly Reports (Nodal)

Submit Link Paper <

Submit Quarterly Returns

Public Authority\*

Central Information Commission

Year\*

2017-2018

Quarterly Return\*

1st Quarter (April-June)

Search

Cancel

Central Information Commission

Welcome, Z Thomas
Log out
Change Password

PA Management
User Updation(Nodal)
Appeals/Complaint Reports
View Quarterly Reports
View Quarterly Reports (Nodal)
Submit Link Paper

### Submit Quarterly Returns

Public Authority\*
Central Information Commission

Year\*
2017-2018

Quarterly Return\*
1st Quarter (April-June)

Search
Cancel

RTI Annual Return Information System

Quarterly Return Form						
Public Authority : Central Information Commission						
Ministry Name : Department of Personnel & Training						
Quarter : 1st Quarter (April-June)						
Block I (Details about the requests and appeals)						
	Opening Balance as on beginning of	No. of application received as transfer from other PAs u/s 6(3)	Received during the Quarter(including cases transferred to other PAs)	No. of Cases transfered to other PAs u/s 6(3)	Decisions Where requests/appeals rejected	Decisions Where requests/appeals replied
Requests	10	15	10	1	1	13
First Appeals	5	N/A	5	N/A	2	3
Total no. Of CPIOs designated			Total no. Of CPIOs designated			Total no. Of AAs designated
1			100			10

Block II (Details about fees Collected,penalty imposed and disciplinary action taken)			
Registration Fee Collected(in Rs.) u/s 7(1)	Addl. Fee Collected(in Rs.) u/s 7(3)	Penalty Amount Recovered(in Rs.) as directed by CIC u/s 20(1)	No. Of Cases where disciplinary action taken against any Officer u/s 20(2)
500	500	5000	2

Block III (Details Of various provisions of section 8 while rejecting the requested information)													
No. Of times various provisions were invoked while rejecting requests Relevant Sections Of RTI Act 2005													
Section 8(i)										Section			
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	9	11	24	other
1	0	2	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1

Block IV (Details Regarding Mandatory Disclosures)	
A. Is the Mandatory Disclosures under Sec. 4(1)(b) posted on the Website of Public Authority ?	Provide the detail/URL of webpage,where the disclosure is posted (max 150 chars)
Yes	cic.gov.in
B. Last Date of updating of Mandatory disclosure under Section 4(1)b	2017-08-22

# **Guidelines For Public Authorities**




## 2. For Public Authority Registration :-

**Step 1-** To register the PA, first of all, the PA may contact with the Nodal officer of their Ministry/ department to add as PA in CIC PA module (The procedure for adding the PA is mentioned on page no. 6 of this document).

**Step 2-** After successfully adding of the PA by nodal officer the PA may register itself by clicking on Public Authority radio button then click on Register Public Authority link

**Login**

 **CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION**

☐ Admin ☐ Nodal Officer ☒ Public Authority ☐ FAA

\*Public Authority:

--Select--

Password

Password

Please type below 6 digit text in textbox

4 5 2 V H Refresh

**Login**

[Register Nodal Officer](#) [Forgot Password](#) [Register Public Authority](#)

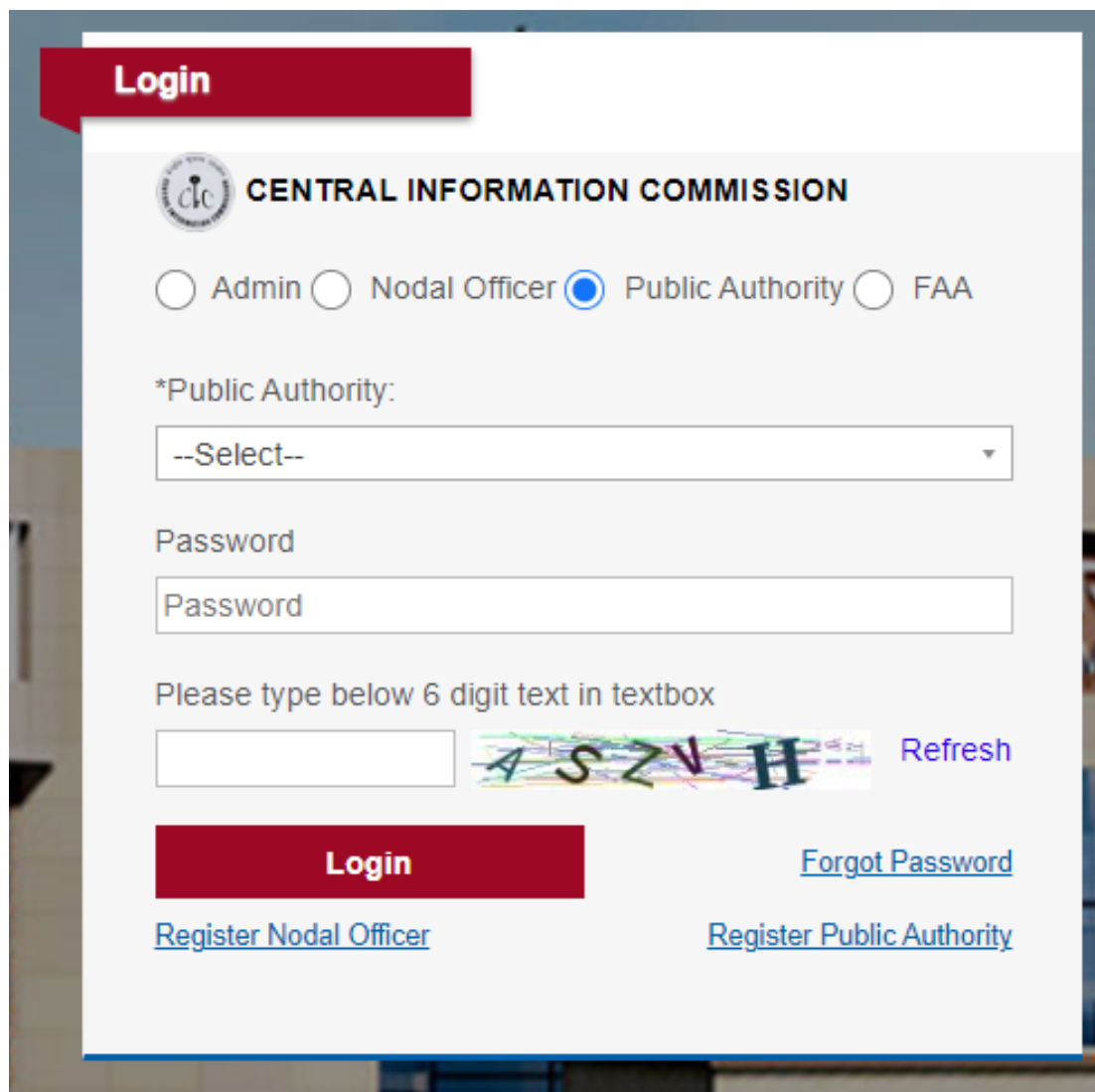
After clicking on the link the following Public Authority Registration Page will open, fill all the required details (red star \* markis mandatory field).

Registration Form Of Public Auhtority	
Ministry/Independent Department*	Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department*	Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion
Public Authority*	Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion
Officers Details	
CPIO Officer Name*	Enter Officer Name
Designation*	Enter Designation
Contact Address*	Enter Contact Address
State*	--Select state--
City	Enter City
Pincode*	Enter Pincode
Email Address*	Enter Email Address
Mobile Number*	Enter Mobile Number
Phone No.	Enter Phone No
Fax No.(If Any)	Enter Fax No
Password*	Enter Password
	Hint: Please Enter Alpha-Numeric Between 6-12
Confirm Password*	Enter Confirm Password
<div>SubmitCancel</div>	

After filling all the details click on Submit button.


It will give message “Public Authority registration submitted successfully”

## Login by Public Authority



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the login page of the Central Information Commission. At the top left, there is a red banner with the word "Login" in white. Below this, the Central Information Commission logo is visible, followed by the text "CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION". There are four radio buttons for user roles: "Admin", "Nodal Officer", "Public Authority" (which is selected), and "FAA". Below the radio buttons, there is a label "\*Public Authority:" followed by a dropdown menu currently showing "--Select--". Underneath the dropdown is a "Password" label and a corresponding text input field containing the word "Password". Below the password field, there is a text prompt "Please type below 6 digit text in textbox" followed by a 6-digit captcha image showing the characters "4 5 2 V H" and a "Refresh" link. At the bottom of the form, there is a red "Login" button, a blue link for "Forgot Password", a blue link for "Register Nodal Officer", and a blue link for "Register Public Authority".

**Login**

 **CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION**

☐ Admin ☐ Nodal Officer ☒ Public Authority ☐ FAA

\*Public Authority:

--Select--

Password

Password

Please type below 6 digit text in textbox

4 5 2 V H Refresh

**Login** [Forgot Password](#)

[Register Nodal Officer](#) [Register Public Authority](#)

After opening the above window click on public authority radio button then select public authority and fill the password thereafter enter captcha then click on Login button.

## Submit Quarterly Returns :-

Annual Quarterly returns -> Submit Quarterly Returns

Fill all details then click on Submit Button.

Annual Quarterly Returns

» Submit Quarterly Returns

User Updation(PA)

Appeals/Complaint Report (PA)

Submit Link Paper

Submit Quarterly Returns Report

Year\*2017-2018

Quarterly Return\*1st Quarter (April-June)

SubmitCancel

RTI Annual Return Information System

Quarterly Return Form

Public Authority : Ministry of Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation

Ministry Name : Ministry of Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation

Quarter : 1st Quarter (April-June) (2016-2018)

Block I (Details about the requests and appeals)

	Opening Balance as on beginning of 1st Quarter (April-June)	No. of application received as transfer from other PAs u/s 6(3)	Progress during Quarter			
			Received during the Quarter(including cases transferred to other PAs)	No. of Cases transferred to other PAs u/s 6(3)	Decisions Where requests/appeals rejected	Decisions Where requests/appeals replied
Requests	0	0	0	0	0	0
First Appeals	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	0
Total no. Of CPIOs designated			Total no. Of CPIOs designated		Total no. Of AAs designated	
0			0		0	

Block II (Details about fees Collected,penalty imposed and disciplinary action taken)

Registration Fee Collected(in Rs.) u/s 7(1)	Addl. Fee Collected(in Rs.) u/s 7(3)	Penalty Amount Recovered(in Rs.) as directed by CIC u/s 20(1)	No. Of Cases where disciplinary action taken against any Officer u/s 20(2)
0	0	0	0

Block III (Details Of various provisions of section 8 while rejecting the requested information)

No. Of times various provisions were invoked while rejecting requests

Relevant Sections Of RTI Act 2005

Section 8(i)										Section			
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	9	11	24	other
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Block IV (Details Regarding Mandatory Disclosures)

A. Is the Mandatory Disclosures under Sec. 4(1)(b) posted on the Website of Public Authority ?	Provide the detail/URL of webpage,where the disclosure is posted (max 150 chars)
Yes	www.example.com
B. Last Date of updating of Mandatory disclosure under Section 4(1)b	dd/mm/yyyy
C. Has the Mandatory Disclosure been audited by third party as per DOPT vide OM No. 1/6/2011-IR dated 15-04-2013?	Provide the detail/URL of webpage,where the Audit report is posted (max 150 chars)
Yes	www.example.com
D. Date of audit of Mandatory disclosures under Sec. 4(1)(b)(Format dd/mm/yyyy)	dd/mm/yyyy

SubmitReset

# Thank You