

The Right to Information Act, 2005

A Primer

September 2016 (updated in 2019)



Foreword

This booklet is part of a series of Primers prepared for the 6th National Convention on the Right to Food and Work (Ranchi, 23-25 September 2016). The purpose of these Primers is to help you to know your rights and how to defend them.

The Primers focus on different economic and social rights, including the right to information, the right to food, the right to work, forest rights, children's rights, the right to education, and more. They are written in simple language, for a wide audience.

The Primers are action-oriented: it is hoped that they will be used in collective struggles for social and economic rights. For further

information as well as ideas for action, please take a look at the website of the Right to Food Campaign (www.righttofoodcampaign.in). To order copies of these primers, please contact the secretariat of the campaign.

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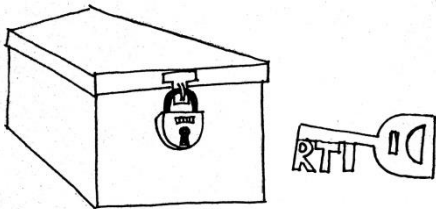
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1. Introduction

The Right to Information (RTI) Act of India was passed in 2005 after a broad based movement for a transparency law. The RTI Act guarantees citizens the right to access information from all branches of the government - executive, legislature and judiciary. It is one of the most powerful right to information laws in the world.

The Supreme Court of India has held the right to information to be a fundamental right, derived from the right to freedom of speech and



expression enshrined in Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

Millions of RTI applications are filed every year in India. People are using the Act extensively on a range of issues – from holding the government accountable for delivery of basic rights and entitlements to questioning the highest offices of the country.

The RTI Act is one of the most empowering legislations for the citizens of this country. It has initiated the vital task of redistributing power in a democratic framework.

This primer, prepared in 2016, provides an introduction to the RTI Act. It has been written in a question-answer format for easy comprehension and reference.

The bare RTI Act in various languages can be accessed at <http://rti.gov.in/rtiact.asp>

2. What is the meaning of Right to Information?

The RTI Act creates a practical and enforceable framework for people to access information from public authorities.

Under the Act, people have the right to seek any material in any form, including records, documents, memos, e-mails, opinions, advices, press releases, circulars, orders, logbooks, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models, data material held in any electronic form which is held by or under the control of any public authority (Section 2(f)).

The Act also gives you the right to: (i) inspect work, documents, records; (ii) take notes, extracts, or certified copies of documents or records; (iii) take certified samples of material; (iv) obtain information in electronic form (Section 2(j)).



Using the RTI Act, citizens can access copies of contracts, receipts, estimates, details of development funds, information about

implementation of laws, schemes and policies, status of application forms, requests or complaints submitted to the government, samples of material used in construction of roads, buildings etc.

The Supreme Court in the matter of CBSE Vs. Aditya Bandopadhyay in August 2011, held that if a public authority has any information, an applicant may access such information, subject to the exemptions of the Act. If the information requested is such that it is required to be maintained under any law or regulation, there is an obligation on the public authority to provide this information, subject to the provisions of the RTI Act.

In another case (T.S.R. Subramanian Vs. Union of India), the Supreme Court held that all verbal

and oral instructions to civil servants must be recorded so as to facilitate their disclosure under the RTI Act.

3. Who is covered under the RTI Act?

The RTI Act extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir (Jammu and Kashmir has its own state RTI law). Under the Act, people can seek information from public authorities. “Public authority” means any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted

(a) by or under the Constitution;

(b) by any law;

(d) by government notification or order;

The term also includes

- (e) any body owned, controlled or substantially financed directly or indirectly by Central or State Government;
- (f) any non-government organisation substantially financed, directly or indirectly, by Central or State Government (Section 2(h)).

Information can therefore be accessed from the central, state and local governments; the executive, legislature or judiciary; corporations established through law or notifications; and all bodies owned, controlled or substantially financed by the government. Further, even those non-government organisations which are substantially financed by the government are public authorities under the law.

An RTI application can be directly filed to seek information from any of the public authorities.

Apart from this, the Act also empowers people to seek information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any law (Section 2(f)). For this, the RTI application has to be filed to the public authority which is empowered by law to seek that information from the private body.

This is critical as the government has wide statutory powers to access information from private bodies, and therefore, the RTI Act can also be used to obtain a great deal of information about private bodies.

The Supreme Court in the Thalappalam Ser. Coop. Bank Ltd. Vs. State of Kerala in October 2013 held that a body can be said to be

substantially financed by the government only if the funding is so substantial that the body practically runs by such funding and, without it, would struggle to exist.

Intelligence and security organisations listed in the Second Schedule of the Act are exempt from disclosing information, except information pertaining to allegations of corruption and human rights violations (Section 24).

4. What information is exempt from disclosure?

Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act list specific categories of information which are exempt from disclosure:

- Where disclosure would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, or relations with foreign States, or leads to incitement of an offence;
- Where release of information has been expressly forbidden by any court;
- Where disclosure would cause a breach of privilege of Parliament or Legislature;
- Commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property, where disclosure would harm competitive position, unless larger public interest so warrants;
- Information available to a person in his fiduciary relationship, unless the

competent authority is satisfied that the larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information;



- Information received in confidence from foreign Government;
- Where disclosure would endanger life or physical safety, or reveal confidential sources of information or assistance given

in confidence for law enforcement or security purposes;

- Where disclosure would impede the process of investigation or apprehension or prosecution of offenders;
- Cabinet papers, provided that after the cabinet has taken its decision and the matter is complete, the decisions of Council of Ministers, the reasons thereof, and the material on the basis of which the decisions were taken shall be made public;
- Personal information which would cause invasion of privacy, unless larger public interest justifies disclosure.

- Where disclosure would cause an infringement of copyright, subsisting in a person other than the State.

To narrow the scope of exemptions, the Act further states:

- Information which cannot be denied to the Parliament or a State Legislature cannot be denied to any person.
- If public interest in disclosure outweighs the harm to the protected interests, then even exempted information is to be disclosed (Section 8(2)).
- Most exempt information to be released after 20 years.

Apart from exemptions listed in Sections 8 and 9, all other information can be accessed under the RTI Act.

Further, Section 10 states that if part of a record is exempt, then that part may be removed and the rest released.

The RTI Act overrides the Official Secrets Act, 1923, and any other law which is inconsistent with the provisions of the RTI Act (Section 22).

In *RBI Vs. Jayantilal N. Mistry* in 2015, the Supreme Court held that where information is required to be provided to an authority under a law, it cannot be said that such information is being provided in a fiduciary relationship.

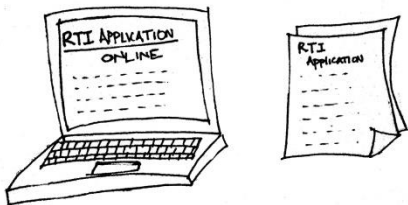
Further, the SC has interpreted Section 22 to mean that the RTI Act overrides all other laws,

rules, regulations, practices etc. insofar as transparency and access to information is concerned.

Therefore, even if a public authority has its own rules which deny people certain categories of information, such laws, rules, regulations or practices will be overridden by the RTI Act. Only that information which is exempt under the RTI Act can be legally withheld from people – nothing more.

5. How to use the RTI Act?

To obtain information from a public authority, you have to send an application to the Public Information Officer (PIO), in writing or electronically, and pay the prescribed fee.



A Public Information Officer (PIO) has been designated in each department/agency to receive requests and provide information. Further, to ensure ease of use in remote places, Assistant PIO (APIOs) have been designated at sub-district levels to receive applications and forward them to the appropriate PIO.

There is no prescribed format for applying for information. An application can be made on a blank sheet of paper. The applicant must include contact details, the name of the

concerned public authority, and details of information sought under the RTI Act.

The Central government has put in place a very useful facility for sending online RTI applications to any ministry or department of the Central government. This facility can be accessed at <https://rtionline.gov.in/>

Upon receiving an RTI application, the PIO has to provide the information (after collecting the stipulated fee) or reject the application by invoking any of the exemptions listed in Section 8 or 9 of the Act (Section 7(1)). Where further fee is charged, the PIO must inform the applicant about the calculation used to arrive at the exact fee.

Whenever an application is rejected, the PIO must communicate the reasons to the

information seeker. Further, every reply must contain details of the right of the applicant to appeal the decision, including the particulars of the appellate authority.

6. Time frame for receiving information

The RTI Act clearly defines the time-frame within which the PIO is required to provide information.

Ordinarily, information is to be provided within 30 days. In some circumstances, a different time-frame has been defined, as follows:

- Where the RTI application pertains to life or liberty: 48 hours.

- Where the RTI application was filed to Assistant PIO (APIO) rather than PIO: 35 days.
- Where information pertaining to allegations of corruption or human rights violation is sought from an exempt agency: 45 days.

The PIO is required to provide the information (on payment of further fee if applicable) or reject the request within thirty days. Where the PIO is seeking further fee, the period between the intimation of further fee and payment of fee is excluded for the purpose of calculating the period of thirty days.

Failure of PIO to respond to the RTI application within the stipulated time-frame is a deemed

refusal and the applicant can move to the appellate process.

Information shall be provided free of charge where a public authority fails to comply with the time limits specified in the law (Section 7(6)).

7. Is there any fee to be paid for accessing information?

Yes. The RTI Act stipulates that an application fee may be charged, and also a further fee representing the cost of providing the information. However, the Act clarifies that both fees must be reasonable. The quantum of fee and mode of payment are to be prescribed

by the appropriate government or competent authority through rules.

The Central government and most of the state governments have prescribed an application fee of Rs. 10 and a further fee of Rs. 2 per page of information (or Rs. 50 for information on a CD). Usually the fee is payable through various modes including cash, Indian Postal Order etc. For online RTI applications filed to the Central government, the fee can be paid through debit/credit card or internet banking.

“Below Poverty Line” (BPL) persons are exempt from paying any fee (application fee or further fee). And as mentioned earlier, if information is not provided within the stipulated timeframe, it shall be provided free of cost to the applicant.

8. In case of violations of the law, is there an appeal process?

The appellate mechanism prescribed under the RTI Act consists of two appeals:

1. First Appeal- If an applicant does not receive any reply in the prescribed time-frame, or is aggrieved by the decision of the PIO, (s)he can file a first appeal with the First Appellate Authority (FAA). The FAA is an officer senior in rank to the PIO, located in the same public authority.

The first appeal has to be filed within 30 days of the date of response of the PIO. In case of no response, it has to be filed within 30 days of the date of expiry of the prescribed time-frame. The First Appellate Authority is ordinarily required to decide

each appeal within 30 days, extendable to 45 days with reasons for delay to be recorded in writing.

2. Second Appeal- The RTI Act envisages an independent Information Commission (IC) to be established at the Central and State levels as the final appellate authority. Any person who does not receive a decision of the FAA within the prescribed time-frame, or is aggrieved by the decision of the FAA, may file a second appeal to the Information Commission. The second appeal is to be filed within ninety days from the date on which the FAA decision should have been made or was actually received. For Central government public authorities, the second appeal will lie with the Central Information Commission while for state government

public authorities, the second appeal will lie with the respective State Information Commission. The commissions consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and up to 10 information commissioners, appointed by the President of India at the Central level and by the governor in the states.

The commissions have various powers under the Act, including ordering disclosure of information, requiring public authorities to publish categories of information or make changes to its practices of information maintenance, penalising PIOs for violating the RTI Act, awarding compensation to information seekers for any loss, etc. The Act does not define any time-frame within which the Commission

should dispose second appeals. The Supreme Court in its judgement in Anjali Bhardwaj & Ors Vs. Union of India & Ors in 2019, held that commissions should decide appeals/complaints within the shortest time possible, which should normally be few months from the date of complaint or appeal being made.

3. In any appeal proceedings, the onus to prove that a denial of a request was justified is on the PIO who denied the request.

9. Was the RTI Act amended in 2019?

Yes. The RTI Amendment Bill, 2019 was passed by Parliament in July 2019 and received the

President's assent on August 1, 2019, thereby becoming an Act.

The amendment empowers the Central government to make rules to decide the tenure, salary, allowances and other terms of service of Information Commissioners of the Central Information Commission and also of State Information Commissions. This will fundamentally weaken the institution of the information commissions as it will adversely impact their ability to function in an independent manner.

Prior to the amendments, the law defined a fixed tenure of five years (subject to retirement at 65 years) for information commissioners and the salaries, allowances and other terms of service for commissioners of the Central Information Commission and chiefs of the state information commissions were on par with

election commissioners, which were the same as that of Supreme Court judges and were decided by Parliament.

Despite strong opposition within and outside Parliament, the amendments were pushed through without even being referred to a standing or select committee of Parliament. The RTI Amendment Act, 2019 has been challenged in courts.

10. In case of violations of the law, is there a complaint process?

Under Section 18 of the RTI Act, a complaint can be filed to the Information Commission by any citizen who:

1. has been unable to submit an application to a PIO because no PIO has been appointed

or the PIO refused to accept the RTI application;

2. has been refused access to any information requested under this Act;



3. has not received a response to a request for information within the stipulated time limit;
4. has been required to pay unreasonable fees;
5. has been given incomplete, misleading or false information under this Act.

A complaint can also be filed in respect of any other matter relating to requests for information under the RTI Act.

The powers of the ICs while dealing with a complaint include setting up an inquiry, penalising the PIO under Section 20, and giving directions under Section 19(8) such as requiring the public authority to appoint a PIO, change its record maintenance practices, etc.

Subsequent to a Supreme Court judgement in 2011 in Chief Information Commissioner vs. State of Manipur, it has been clarified that the IC cannot direct disclosure of information while disposing a Section 18 complaint.

11. What action can be taken against officials who violate the RTI Act?

The Information Commissions have the power to penalise PIOs for violating the RTI Act under Section 20 of the Act. The penalty is to be paid by the PIO and not the public authority.

The RTI Act provides for the following penalties to be imposed on the PIO:

- Penalty of Rs 250 for each day of delay (up to Rs 25,000) without reasonable cause.

- Penalty of up to Rs. 25,000 for, without reasonable cause, refusing to accept an RTI application, malafidely denying the information request, knowingly giving incorrect, incomplete or misleading information, destroying information, or obstructing the provision of information.

The PIO must be given an opportunity to be heard before a penalty is imposed on him/her.

Further, for persistently violating the RTI Act, the Information Commission can recommend disciplinary action against the PIO, under the service rules applicable to him/her.

The imposition of a penalty in cases of violation of the RTI Act is mandatory. Thus, in disposing any appeal or complaint involving evidence of a violation of the Act, the commission must either

impose the penalty or record the reasons why penalty is not being imposed.



12. What is proactive disclosure?

Section 4 is perhaps the most significant provision of the RTI Act. Among other things, it states that *“It shall be a constant endeavour of every public authority to take steps...to provide as much information suo motu to the public at*

regular intervals through various means of communications, including internet, so that the public have minimum resort to the use of this Act to obtain information”.

Section 4 lists various categories of information which should be made available proactively or *suo motu* to the public, without waiting for any RTI application. It also prescribes the manner in which the information should be proactively provided.

Section 4(1) lists the particulars of information which were to be published within 120 days of the enactment of the RTI Act, and subsequently updated every year, by each public authority. These include:

- information about its functions,
- duties of its officers,

- procedure for decision-making,
- documents held by it,
- norms/rules prescribed for its functioning,
- arrangements for public consultation,
- details about advisory committees,
- directory of officers,
- budget allocated to the authority,
- subsidy programs and their beneficiaries,
- salaries of employees,
- facilities available for citizens to access information and contact details of the PIOs etc.

Sections 4(1)(c) and (d) require public authorities to proactively disclose relevant facts while formulating policies and also provide reasons for their decisions.

Under Sections 4(3) and 4(4), information has to be disseminated in the local language, bearing in mind *“the most effective method of communication in that local area and the information should be easily accessible”*. Therefore information has to be made available not only through the internet, but also through notice boards, newspapers, wall paintings etc.

13. Some other useful provisions

a. Compensation

Under Section 19(8)(b) of the RTI Act, the Information Commission has the power to require the public authority to compensate the information seeker for any loss or other detriment suffered. No limits to the amount of compensation that may be awarded are

defined in the law. To seek compensation, the appeal or complaint filed to the Information Commission must specifically request that relief and give details of the loss or detriment suffered due to violation of the RTI Act. The compensation is to be paid by the public authority.

b. No need to specify reasons for seeking information

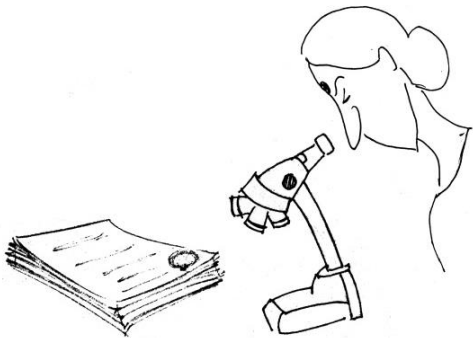
Section 6(2) of the RTI Act specifies that a person making a request for information under the Act shall not be required to give any reason for the request. Applicants are also not required to give any personal details except their contact details.

c. Filing RTI applications to the wrong public authority

The RTI Act states that if a person has filed an application to a public authority requesting information:

- (i) which is held by another public authority, or;
- (ii) the subject matter of which is more closely connected with another public authority;

then the public authority which received the RTI application is required to transfer it to the appropriate public authority within 5 days from the date of receipt of the application. Further, the applicant must be informed of this transfer.



14. Success stories

a. Accessing rations-

Sunita Devi, a resident of Jagdamba Camp in Delhi, had a BPL ration card but had never received any grain from the ration shop. For years, she and other residents of the slum were told by the ration shopkeeper that their ration

had not been sent by the government. Using the RTI Act, they sought copies of the records of the ration shop – including the stock and sale registers. Records revealed that while every month ration had been reaching the shop, the shop keeper had been siphoning off all the grain and forging entries and signatures in the sale register. With this evidence, the residents filed complaints to the food department and organised a public hearing where the malpractices exposed through the RTI Act were publicly discussed.

Consequently, showcause notices were served to food department officials and licenses of several shops were cancelled. As a result of the use of the RTI Act, everyone in the area started receiving their monthly grain entitlements.

b. The struggle for pensions

Sumitra, a 73 year old widow lived alone in Lal Gumbad Camp, a slum in Delhi. With no other sources of income, she was wholly dependent on the meagre pension that she received under the old age pension scheme of the state government. In April 2012, she stopped receiving her pension without any information from the concerned department. Due to lack of resources, she became homeless. In June 2013, she filed an application under the RTI Act seeking information on the status of her pension. She filed a second appeal before the Central Information Commission (CIC) in August 2013 as she did not receive complete information from the PIO even after filing her

first appeal. Taking a strict view of this violation of the RTI Act, the CIC awarded a compensation of Rs. 48,500 to Sumitra and also imposed a penalty of Rs 25,000 on the PIO.

Despite the public authority challenging the order of the CIC in the High Court, the Court finally awarded compensation to Sumitra, matching it to the amount of pension she had lost over the years. Her pension benefits were also reinstated. She was able to rent a small room again and thus secure a roof over her head.

c. Making NREGA accountable

Across the country, the RTI Act has been extensively used to enhance transparency and

accountability in the functioning of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). People have used it to unearth corruption in muster rolls, expose ghost works and carry out social audits. In many places, based on the evidence accessed through RTI Act, action has been taken against corrupt officials and recoveries made.

d. Securing admission in a private school

A Delhi High Court order made it mandatory for public schools to reserve 20% seats for students from economically weaker sections of society. Upon learning of the order, Kanhaiya Lal, a resident of a low income colony in Chirag Delhi, applied for his grandson's admission to Apeejay School. Even though the new academic session

had started, Kanhaiya did not receive any response from the school. Finally, he filed an RTI application in the Directorate of Education seeking information on the status of his grandson's admission application. In response to the RTI, he was informed that his grandson's application had been accepted. Finally, Kanhaiya's grandson was granted admission and was exempted from paying any education fee.

e. Questioning powerful officials

In Jammu and Kashmir, the state RTI Act was used to expose how the Chief Minister (CM) was using the official helicopter to travel over short distances. The CM was forced to publicly state that henceforth he would not use the chopper. Subsequent RTIs revealed a forty

percent drop in expenditure on helicopter travel.

f. Securing water supply for the slum

For years, residents of slums in Begumpur faced acute water shortage. Despite repeated requests to the area MLA they received no reprieve. Each time the MLA would turn them away citing lack of funds. Residents used the RTI Act to access details of the quantum of MLA “local area development” funds and the details of works recommended by the area MLA.

This information revealed that under the MLA funds scheme, each MLA in Delhi can spend up to Rs 2 crores every year to address development problems of the electorate. It also

emerged that a large proportion of the Local Area Development funds of the area MLA had been used for construction of fountains and waterfalls in the constituency even as people continued to suffer from scarcity of water.

With certified information, the residents confronted the MLA and demanded an explanation on why he was not allocating the funds to resolve their water problem. People's pressure, strengthened by information accessed under the RTI Act, finally resulted in the MLA allocating funds for providing tubewells and water pipelines in the slums.

g. Obtaining a passport

Dilshad Hussain had applied for a passport in 2011 and was told that it would be ready within 45 days. Every week for eight months he visited the passport office, suffering a loss of daily wages. He was approached by touts who offered to get his work done for a bribe.

He filed an RTI in April 2012 and asked details about the progress of his application, the reasons for delay and details of the officers responsible for processing his application. Under pressure to respond to the RTI questions, the government officials immediately processed his application and delivered his passport. They replied to his RTI application and apologized for the delay and the inconvenience caused.

h. Towards a transparent democracy

In a landmark order in 2012, the Central Information Commission directed the Delhi Legislative Assembly to proactively provide information about Assembly proceedings in compliance with Section 4 of the RTI Act. The Assembly Secretariat was ordered to provide live telecast of the Assembly proceedings on the website. Further, the CIC directed that information about the proceedings of the Delhi Assembly, legislations introduced and passed by the Assembly, text of laws and information on the committees of the Assembly, should be made available on the official website of the Assembly. To ensure wide dissemination, the CIC also held that a system for publishing new

laws passed by the Assembly, in Hindi and English, should be put in place.

i. Details of development funds displayed on boards

In February 2011, in two significant decisions, the CIC ordered the Delhi Government and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to install boards in every ward of Delhi displaying expenditure details of local area development funds of the MLA and Councillor of that area, in compliance with Section 4 of the RTI Act. The orders require details of the expenditure incurred in the current year and the previous year to be provided on these boards in Hindi. The Commission's orders were in response to

complaints filed by Satark Nagrik Sangathan following Delhi-wide public hearings.

Information on the use of local area development funds is now easily available through these boards. It has enabled people to monitor the expenditure of public funds, curb corruption in utilisation of public funds and meaningfully engage with their elected representatives to address development needs of the constituency.

j. Transparency in functioning of public toilets

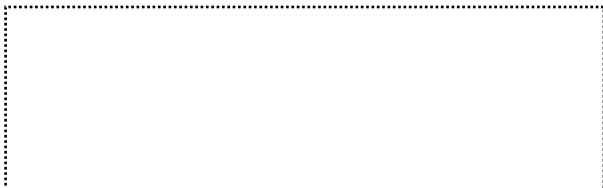
Most public toilets collect high user charges and are poorly maintained. In many places, especially slums, public toilets are locked at night, forcing women and children to resort to open defecation in unsafe locations. In the

absence of information on the correct user charges and the terms of the agreement signed with the contractor responsible for maintaining these toilets, people were not able to take action against the arbitrary functioning of these toilets.

In response to complaints, the Information Commission ordered the Delhi government to display boards outside each public toilet giving information on user charges, timings, cleaning schedules, contact details of the contractor, contact details of the grievance redress authority.



15. Suggested format for an application under the RTI Act



APPLICATION UNDER THE RTI ACT, 2005

The Public Information Officer,

Name of Public Authority:

Name of Applicant:

Address:

PARTICULARS OF INFORMATION SOUGHT:

1.

2.

3.

Signature of applicant:

Date:

16. Sample questions for RTI applications

a. RTI application on development works

A drain/road/pavement/park is being constructed at _____ (exact location with landmarks). Please provide the following information in relation to this-

- i. Please provide a copy of the contract and tender awarded for the construction of the work.
- ii. Please provide a map showing the exact location, length, starting point and ending point of the work which is being constructed.
- iii. Please provide the date of start and date of completion of the work as per the contract/tender.
- iv. Please provide details of funds released, and sanctioned for the work as per government

records.

- v. I would like to inspect all the papers and files (contract, tender, work files, measurement books, inspection reports and any other files/papers) related to the construction of this drain. Kindly let me know the date, time & venue of the inspection.

b. Sample questions for status of application for government issued document

I had applied for a _____ (passport, ration card, driving license, income certificate etc.) on _____. My application number is _____. Please provide the following information with respect to my application-

- i. Please provide a copy of the action taken report of my application.

- ii. Please provide a copy of the file noting on my application.
- iii. Please provide reasons for the delay in processing my application
- iv. Please provide a copy of the relevant order which defines the stipulated time-frame within which the _____ (passport, ration card, driving license, income certificate) is supposed to be made.
- v. Please provide the name, designation and contact details of the official responsible for processing my application within the stipulated time-frame.
- vi. Please provide the name, designation and contact details of the official to whom I can file a complaint regarding the delay in processing my application.

17. Further Resources

For more information and resources on the RTI Act, you can visit these websites-

www.snsindia.org This website has details of the ongoing campaigns of Satark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS) and also resources on the RTI Act in Hindi and in English including pamphlets, success stories, films, articles etc.

righttoinformation.info This website has details of the ongoing campaigns of National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information (NCPRI) on the RTI Act, Lokpal Act, Whistleblowers Protection Act and Grievance Redress.

www.rti-assessment.com This is the website of RTI Assessment and Advocacy Group (RaaG) and has reports on the implementation of the RTI Act done by RaaG.

www.rti.gov.in This is the official website of the government and it contains official rules, circulars, guidelines etc. related to the RTI Act.

Contact details of SNS, NCPRI & RaaG:

B-76, Garage, SFS Flats, Sheikh Sarai Phase- 1,
New Delhi- 110017

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18. About the authors

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If you found this primer useful, please share it with others and help to disseminate it widely. There are many ways of doing this, such as:

- Organising a group discussion on this primer in your village or mohalla.
- Using sections of this primer to make posters or parchas. The posters can be put up in public places such as the local
- school, anganwadi, Panchayat Bhawan etc.
- Distributing or selling copies of this primer.
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