

## **Chapter – 12**

# **RIGHT TO INFORMATION (RTI), ACT**

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Right to Information Act is an act to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Section 5 of the Act makes it incumbent upon every public authority to designate Public Information Officers (PIO) whose duty is to deal with requests for information. A provision has been made in the legislation that such a Public Information Officer can seek assistance of any other officer in the public authority; and, in that eventuality, the latter shall come to be regarded as a de-facto Public Information Officer. Some of these de-facto Public Information Officers would, under the internal procedures, be actually taking a decision on an information request which, in turn, would be communicated to the applicant through the designated Public Information Officer. In the event of the request being rejected, etc., the act casts an obligation upon the designated PIO to communicate to the applicant the particulars of the appellate authority also. Having regard to the above, all the public authorities have to designate their appellate authorities in accordance with the provisions of section 19(1).

Section (25) of the Act provides that the Central Information Commission shall monitor the implementation of the Act by public authorities under the Central Government and prepare an annual report which shall be laid before each House Of Parliament. For the purpose of compilation of the Report, the Commission would require certain statistical information from the various public authorities under the jurisdiction of Ministries/Departments. The public authorities under the administrative control or associated with your Ministry may be suitably apprised of the provisions in this section so that action may be taken by them to compile the statistics from the date the Act comes into operation as would enable the Commission to prepare its Annual Report.

The name, designation and address of the appellate authority, PIO, and APIOs for head quarter and the regional centres alongwith the manuals for NIH (as mentioned in para 3 above) are given under right to information menu in NIH website i.e. [www:// nih.ernet.in](http://nih.ernet.in).

**ADDRESSES AND CONTACT DETAILS OF PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS FOR NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HYDROLOGY, ROORKEE (UA) AND THE SPHERE OF WORK HANDLED BY THE PIOs AND APIOs**

**Addresses of the PIOs/ APIOs**

**Sphere of Work**

**Appellate Authority**

Dr. K. D. Sharma  
Director  
National Institute of Hydrology,  
Roorkee (UA) 247 667  
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Appellate Authority for all the cases pertaining to NIH and its Centres

**Public Information Officers**

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Overall Co-ordination for regional centres and HQ at Roorkee

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Matters specific to NE-region

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Matters specific to Bihar,  
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Matters specific to MP, parts of  
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