

Ab Tak 56; Inquiries On RTI

BHUBANESWAR: The State Government has received 56 applications seeking information from various departments under Right to Information (RTI) Act which came into force on October 12.

An information cell has been opened at the reception office of the State Secretariat where two officers of the Information and Public Relations Department have been posted to provide application for information and other necessary assistance to public seeking information from the Government.

Information officer Sisir Kumar Prusty and assistant information officer Jyotirmati Samantray are the two officers posted at the information cell.

Prusty told that the public response to the newly enacted Right to Information is very heartening. Although 56 applications for information have been received till Saturday, many people are inquiring about the mode of getting information and the procedure to be followed.

Of the 56 applications received, a majority of the applicants have sought information from General Administration Department followed by Revenue, School and Mass Education, Higher Education, Industries, Forest, Finance, Panchayati Raj and Urban Development departments.

Prusty said that the applications received at the information cell are forwarded to administrative departments concerned for necessary action. The Public Information Officer (PIO) of the department concerned will inform the applicant to deposit the cost, if any, in cash or in shape of treasury challan under appropriate head of account for providing information.

If no cost is attached (in case of BPL or other exempted category), the information sought by the applicant will either be delivered to them by post or be made available through the information cell.

If the applicant has to pay cost for the information in cash, he will be provided a secretariat pass at the reception office to deposit the amount with the PIO or the cashier of the concerned department. The required information will be provided to the applicant within the stipulated time by post.

A senior officer of the I&PR Department informed the Orissa Computer Application Centre (OCAC) has been entrusted computerisation of the cell which will be completed shortly.

Source: New India Press, 7 November 2005.