

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- **What is Information?**

Information is any material in any form. It includes records, documents, memos, e-mails, opinions, advices, press releases, circulars, orders, logbooks, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models, data material held in any electronic form.

- **What are the essential requirements of an application filed before a PIO?**

The essential requirements of an application are:

- (a) The applicant should be a citizen of India.
- (b) Application should contain the particulars of information sought.
- (c) Evidence of payment of application fee should be attached.
- (d) Address of the applicant for sending a reply should be available.

- **What is a Public Authority?**

A "public authority" is any authority or body or institution of self government established or constituted by or under the Constitution; or by any other law made by the Parliament or a State Legislature; or by notification issued or order made by the Central Government or a State Government. The bodies owned, controlled or substantially financed by the Central Government or a State Government and non-Government organisations substantially financed by the Central Government or a State Government also fall within the definition of public authority. The financing of the body or the NGO by the Government may be direct or indirect.

- **What is a Public Information Officer?**

The officer so designated by the Public authority, for providing information available, to the information seeker.

- **What is the Fee for Seeking Information from Central Government Public Authorities?**

A person who desires to seek some information from a Central Government Public Authority is required to send, along with the application, a demand draft or a banker's cheque or an Indian Postal Order of Rs.10/- (Rupees ten), payable to the Accounts Officer of the public authority as fee prescribed for seeking information.

- **What is the Fee for the BPL applicant for Seeking Information?**

If the applicant belongs to below poverty line (BPL) category, he is not required to pay any fee. However, he should submit a proof in support of his claim to belong to the below poverty line.

- **Is there any specific Format of Application?**

There is no prescribed format of application for seeking information. The application can be made on plain paper. The application should, however, have the name and complete postal address of the applicant. However, a format for the convenience of applicant is made available under the RTI page - (Form A)

- **Is it required to give any reason for seeking information?**

The information seeker is not required to give reasons for seeking information.

- **Is there any provision for exemption from Disclosure of Information?**

Sub-section (1) of section 8 and section 9 of the Act enumerate the types of information, which is exempt from disclosure.

- **What is the Period for Supply of Information?**

In normal course, information to an applicant shall be supplied within 30 days from the receipt of application by the public authority. If information sought concerns the life or liberty of a person, it shall be supplied within 48 hours. In case the application is sent through the Assistant Public Information Officer or it is sent to a wrong public authority, five days shall be added to the period of thirty days or 48 hours, as the case may be.

- **Is there any provision of Appeal under the RTI Act?**

If an applicant is not supplied information within the prescribed time of thirty days or 48 hours, as the case may be, or is not satisfied with the information furnished to him, he may prefer an appeal to the first appellate authority who is an officer senior in rank to the Public Information Officer. Such an appeal, should be filed within a period of thirty days from the date on which the limit of 30 days of supply of information is expired or from the date on which the information or decision of the Public Information Officer is received. The appellate authority of the public authority shall dispose of the appeal within a period of thirty days or in exceptional cases within 45 days of the receipt of the appeal.

- **Is there any scope for second appeal under the RTI Act?**

If the first appellate authority fails to pass an order on the appeal within the prescribed period or if the appellant is not satisfied with the order of the first appellate authority, he may prefer a second appeal with the Central Information Commission within ninety days from the date on which the decision should have been made by the first appellate authority or was actually received by the appellant.

- **What is Third Party Information?**

Third party in relation to the Act means a person other than the citizen who has made request for information. The definition of third party includes a public authority other than the public authority to whom the request has been made.

- **What is the Method of Seeking Information?**

A citizen who desires to obtain any information under the Act, should make an application to the Public Information Officer of the concerned public authority in writing in English or Hindi or in the official language of the area in which the application is made. The application should be precise and specific. He should make payment of application fee at the time of submitting the application as prescribed in the Fee Rules. Information sought should not be in the form of a Question.

- **Is there any organization(s) exempt from providing information under RTI Act?**

Yes, certain intelligence and security organisations specified in the Second Schedule, are exempted from providing information excepting the information pertaining to the allegations of corruption and human rights violations.
