

1. INTRODUCTION :

1. “CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION” UNDP PROJECT :

The **State Academy of Training (ATI), Imphal** has been taking up the UNDP assisted Project **Capacity Building for Access to Information** since the year, (2007-08) with the financial assistance from the DoPT, (Training Division) Govt. of India. The project takes a comprehensive approach in pursuit of increased access to information for attaining improved/good governance.

2. FACT SHEET :

(1) Area of Operation/ Selected Districts.	(1) Imphal West District & (2) Imphal East District.
(2) Focussed Cadre/ Target Groups (of 2000 nos.).	(1) Government employees, particularly PIOs/APIOs/ deemed PIOs (mainly). (2) Media Groups/Elected Representatives (3) NGOs/Club Volunteers/ Civilians.

3. MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT :

- (A) Training & Capacity Building
- (B) Mass Awareness Campaign/Programme
- (C) Workshop and Social Audit
- (D) Research & Documentation / Dissemination & Advocacy
- (E) Clearing House

ABOUT THE ACT :

The Right to Information Act, 2005 was enacted by the Central Govt. in the month of June, 2005. When gone through the Preamble and Objective of the Act, the following observation could be made.

- (i) The old system/trend of governance keeping the information in the hands of the public authorities alone has to be brought to a change by giving more right to the citizens of the country enabling them to get information from the public authorities.
- (ii) Officials Secrets Act, 1923 has been superceded to this extent.
- (iii) Demands for information from the public and supply of information by the authority are in conflicting situation for which a balance/ compromised point has to be arrived at.
- (iv) Therefore, certain category of information which are in the interest of the authority and country as a whole and also on the ground of consideration of resource constraint, etc. cannot be given to the public.

AT ATI LEVEL :

In order to implement the Act in true spirit, the Academy has been taking up training programmes, mass awareness programmes etc. so that the same is implemented in true spirit. State Govt. authorities including PIO's, APIO's and deemed PIO's have been trained covering about **891nos**. This imparting training to the Govt. employees is in one way for the officers to be well equipped on the contents of the Act so that any information seeker would be helped out when demands are made. In order to give the real meaning and spirit of the Act, giving training to the NGO's/citizens is also not less in importance. Rather, the citizens/public mass would be taught about the contents of the act in detail so that they get the desired information from the authority concerned. It is quite automatic that when the citizens are free to get the information from the public authorities, transparency in the working of the public authorities is the result. This will ultimately achieve of what the citizens aimed at i.e., good governance for the Govt. as well as for the governed. The project namely **CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION** has been confined to only 2 districts of the state as per the guideline of the Govt. of India although the state has 9 districts in total. Therefore, during the tenure of the said project many PIO's/APIO's and deemed PIO's could not be covered. Even then, a good number of Govt. Officials at the level of PIO's/APIO's and deemed PIO's were covered under the Project. The role of the Academy in implementation of the Act is basically giving training to the Govt. employees and creating Mass awareness to the general public through various means.

AT THE STATE LEVEL :

Just after the enactment of the Act, almost all the Deptts. of the State Govt. have already designated PIO's/APIO's etc..etc. However, in regard to **Proactive Disclosure** as required under Section 41(1)(b) of the Act giving details of the organisation, funding pattern, employees list etc..etc. have been made by only 9 departments out of the **47 departments** under the state Govt. The Nodal Deptt. of the State Govt. i.e., Deptt. of Personnel & Administrative Reforms have been requesting the Govt. departments to publish the **Proactive Disclosure**. The possible reason for not publishing proactive disclosure by many of the departments is due to the law & order situation of the state basically the insurgency issue. In regard to the record management as required under Section 4(1)(a) of the Act, only few departments in the secretariat have done the proper record management and not mostly in the Directorates. This aspect is to be thrust upon in new training programmes on the Act.

The State Govt. has not conducted any time bound training programme on the Act for the govt. employees inspite of the fact that they have already constituted the State Information Commission long back. The State Information Commission has disposed off a number of applications in the past 2-3 years. In fact, some civil society organizations are also taking up Mass Awareness Programmes on the Act to the general mass/the public.

OVERVIEW AT ATI LEVEL :

When checked up in the Govt. departments, through the process of information audit, good response could be seen on implementation of the Act from many departments except in few cases for which SIC (State Information Commission) has been involved. Exercise of Information Audit were carried out 2 times during the course of the project and when examined, the applications filed by the seekers, in some cases are very general in nature which does not involve any long process of giving information to the seeker. The Academy has also conducted 2 workshops basically meant for the mass media who could be another good actor for implementation of the Act. Some local dailies have also published the contents of the Act with details in Manipuri version so that the public are made to understand the benefits to be owned by the public out of the Act.

KEY ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS FACED

AT STATE LEVEL :

The State Information Commission is to have its own building. So far, State Govt. has not been conducting any training programme on Mass Awareness programme on the Act. Proper record management of all the Departments needs to be thrust upon more. In addition, proactive disclosure of all departments could be made compulsorily with a time frame given by the Nodal Deptt. of the state Govt.

2. ACTIVITIES TAKEN UP UNDER DIFFERENT HEADINGS/COMPONENTS:

(A) TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING:

(I) Training and capacity building is the only means to improve one's knowledge, skill etc. on a particular area/subject. In many cases, training module / design was of 2/3-Days duration.

Of the 3-Days programme, the 1st day was meant for lectures from the resource persons on the Act which was for 7 hours with 2/3 breaks in between. The 2nd day was meant for Group Works of the participants, asking them for group wise presentation on certain/specific chapter of the Act. The 3rd Day was meant for Written Test on the Act and Assessment made by the Resource Persons. In the case of 2-Days Duration Programme, 1st Day was meant for Lecture by the Resource Person(s) and the 2nd Day was refer Group Work and Written Test. Keeping in view the level of the trainees and their absorption capacity, the duration of the programme was fixed. In the 1-Day programme, basically Lecture by Resource Persons and Interactive Session were carried out. Time duration for 1-Day programme of training was 8 hours.

(II) 36 Training Programmes were conducted covering 1036 participants. Out of 1036 participants, 891 are under Government bodies while the rest 145 are under Non-govt. bodies. Of these 891 officials trained, 11 are SPIO's and 126 ASPIO's while the rest 754 are deemed SPIO's. In 47 different departments of the State Govt., 124 SPIO's and 402 ASPIO's have so far been designated.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED :

(i) During the year, 2007-2008 - 22 Programmes (as at Annexure-I)

(ii) During the year, 2008-2009 - 14 Programmes (as at Annexure-II)

ANNEXURE-I

Details of the Training Programmes with date and no. of participants
are given below :

DURING THE YEAR, 2007-2008

Sl. No.	Course Title(s)	Duration(s)	Date(s)	No. of Participant(s)
1.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	5-Days	3 rd to 7 th April, 2007	38
2.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	3-Days	4 th to 7 th April, 2007	33
3.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	3-Days	10 th to 13 th April, 2007	37
4.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	3-Days	26 th to 28 th April, 2007	37
5.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	3-Days	17 th to 19 th May, 2007	28
6.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	3-Days	22 nd to 24 th May, 2007	32
7.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Days	25 th to 26 th May, 2007	33
8.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Days	30 th to 31 st May, 2007	29
9.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	3-Days	10 th to 12 th July, 2007	36
*10.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	3-Days	19 th to 21 st July, 2007	34
11.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	5-Days	14 th to 18 th December, 2007	18
12.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	3-Days	16 th to 18 th January, 2008	23
13.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Days	23 rd & 24 th January, 2008	21
14.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	3-Days	30 th January to 1 st February, 2008	28
15.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Days	19 th & 20 th February, 2008	19
16.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Days	28 th & 29 th February, 2008	29
17.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Days	1 st & 3 rd March, 2008	29
18.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Days	6 th & 7 th March, 2008	23
19.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Days	12 th & 13 March, 2008	33
20.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Days	14 th & 15 th March, 2008	41
21.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act	2-Days	14 th & 15 th March, 2008	40
22.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act	2-Days	28 th & 29 th March, 2008	25

DURING THE YEAR, 2008-2009

Sl. No.	Course Title(s)	Duration(s)	Date(s)	No. of Participant(s)
1.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Days	4 th & 5 th April, 2008	33
2.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Days	8 th & 9 th April, 2008	31
3.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Days	10 th & 11 th April, 2008	22
4.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Days	6 th & 7 th May, 2008	21
5.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Days	8 th & 9 th May, 2008	21
6.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	1-Day	23 rd June, 2008	29
7.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	1-Day	4 th October, 2008	34
8.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act, 2005	2-Day	6 th & 8 th October, 2008	38
9.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act	2-Day	9 th & 10 th October, 2008	43
10.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act	1-Day	20 th October, 2008	30
11.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act	1-Day	4 th November, 2008	34
12.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act	1-Day	17 th November, 2008	29
13.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act	1-Day	26 th November, 2008	29
14.	Training Course on R.T.I. Act	1-Day	1 st December, 2008	18

Photographs of the training programmes conducted are appended herewith.