

CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION

INSPECTION REPORT

Vide orders dated 20.07.2006 in File No. CIC/WB/A/2006/00029, I was asked by the Chief Information Commissioner as follows:-

“The Additional Registrar will visit the Office of the Registrar, Cooperative Societies NCT Delhi, as required under Section 18(2) of the Act, identify the shortcomings in attending to duties enjoined upon it under the RTI Act, 2005, after which detailed directions will be given to the Public Authority on improving its responsiveness in keeping with the spirit of the Act.”

2. Accordingly, the Office of the RCS was contacted. They intimated that they have already appointed the PIO and the First Appellate Authority and the arrangements have been made to put the RTI regime in place. It was also emphasized that they should update their website indicating the arrangements so made by them under the Act.

3. Subsequently, I visited the Office of the Registrar, Cooperative Societies on 18.06.2007. I have met Shri U.C. Worah, IAS, Registrar, Cooperative Societies and also the PIO and the First Appellate authority of the Department.

4. The RCS explained the arrangement that he has made for receipt of applications under the Right to Information Act, 2005 and the receipt of First Appeals. It was also explained that the Cooperative Department receives applications under the Central Act as well as under the State RTI Act.

5. I also inspected the arrangements made by them. They have earmarked a separate room for the purpose and every application which is received is given a Serial No. and entered in the Register. Arrangements have also been made for receipt of fee and they issue written receipts against the money/instrument paid towards RTI fees. The names of the CPIO and the First Appellate authority are also exhibited on the Sign Board placed conspicuously at the outer premises of the RCS Office. From the Register maintained, it appears that the disposal rate of the RTI applications may be treated as satisfactory.

6. It was explained before me that most of the RTI applications relate to various Housing Cooperative Societies in respect of which no information/records are available in the RCS Office. In many cases, the records are not also available with the Cooperative Housing Societies. Shri Worah also explained that they are seriously considering as to whether such Cooperative Housing Societies can be declared as Public Authorities since they have been allotted land by the D.D.A. at pre-determined rates. If they are declared as Public Authorities, then the response to provide the information under the RTI Act will be on the Secretary of the concerned Society and that every such Society will have to appoint their own PIOs. Till this is done, the only option left is to collect the information from the Housing Societies and pass it on to the intending applicants. This naturally takes time.

7. But insofar as the arrangements regarding receipt of fee and applications are concerned, they were found to be quite satisfactory.

8. In my view, therefore, no further directions need be given.

Submitted.

(L.C. Singhi)
Additional Registrar
18.06.2007