Fourteenth

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RTI ACT, 2005

{APRIL 1, 2018 TO MARCH 31, 2019}

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CHAPTER–1

The Right To Information Act, 2005 and the HP RTI Rules, 2006.

The Right to Information Act, 2005 was enacted by the Indian Parliament on 15th June, 2005. It came into force on 12th October, 2005 but some of the provisions came into force with immediate effect. These provisions included obligations of public authorities, constitution of various Information Commissions, designation of Public Information Officers/Assistant Public Information Officers and the power to make rules by various Competent Authorities. The Act has a comprehensive reach and covers a wide spectrum of organizations. All the Departments and Undertakings of various Governments, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, other Bodies established, constituted, owned, controlled or substantially financed by governments including non-governmental organizations are covered under the Act. Access to information to all Indian citizens is the general rule under this Act, with very few exemptions which are provided in the Act itself.

The Right to Information Act, 2005:

2. The provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 can be summarized as under:-

(i) Any Indian citizen can seek information from any public authority without specifying any reason for seeking the same.

(ii) The Supreme Court decision in Raj Narain case and consultation process in the appointment of judges case have recognized that the right of citizens to obtain information on matters relating to public acts flows from the fundamental right enshrined in Article 19 (1) (a) of the constitution.

(iii) The Public Information Officers have to provide the information sought within time limits specified in the Act, information can't be denied except under exemptions provided in section 8 and 9 of the Act.

(iv) All Government Departments, Corporations/Boards, Urban Local Bodies, Panchayati Raj Institutions and bodies established, constituted, owned, controlled or substantially financed by Government including Non-Governmental Organizations come within the purview of the Act.

(v) The Public Information Officers have to pass reasoned orders while rejecting requests of applicants. Similarly, the Appellate Authorities have also to pass well reasoned and speaking orders while deciding the appeals within specified period.

(vi) Time is of the essence for providing information.

(vii) It fixes up the accountability of the public authorities by way of imposition of penalty in case of default.

3. The duties and obligations of various public authorities under the State Government have been prescribed in the RTI Act, 2005 as under:-

(i) Suo motu disclosure of information on 17 points by public authorities on various aspects of their functioning which are required to be updated and published each year as prescribed in section 4(1)(b) of the Act.

(ii) The public authorities are required to designate adequate number of Public Information Officers to provide information to the applicants and Assistant Public Information Officers at sub-divisional level to receive applications and forward them to the Public Information Officers for further processing.

(iii) The public authorities are required to designate adequate number of Appellate Authorities under section 19 of the Act to consider and decide the first appeals against the decisions of the PIOs.

4. The terms 'Information', 'Record', and 'Right to Information' have been defined in the RTI Act, 2005 as under:-

(i) 'Information' means any material in any form, including records, documents, memos, e-mails, opinions, advices, press releases, circulars, orders, logbooks, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models, data material held in any electronic form and information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any other law for the time being in force;

(ii) 'Record' includes;

(a) any document, manuscript and file;

(b) any microfilm, microfiche and facsimile copy of a document;

(c) any reproduction of image or images embodied in such microfilm(whether enlarged or not); and

(d) any other material produced by a computer or any other device;

(iii) 'Right to Information' means the right to information accessible under this Act which is held by or under the control of any public authority and includes the right to-

(i) Inspection of work, documents, records;

(ii) Taking notes, extracts or certified copies of documents or records;

(iii) Taking certified sample of material;

(iv) Obtaining information in the form of diskettes, floppies, tapes, video cassettes or in any other electronic mode or through printouts where such information is stored in a computer or in any other device.

5. The RTI Act, 2005 defines 'Public Authority' as under:-

'Public Authority' means any authority or body or institution of self government established or constituted-

(a) by or under the Constitution;

(b) by any other law made by Parliament;

(c) by any other law made by State Legislature;

(d) by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government, and includes any-

(i) body owned, controlled or substantially financed;

(ii) Non-Government organization substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government.

6. Section 22 of the RTI Act, 2005 provides that the provisions of the Act, shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in the Official Secrets Act, 1923 and any other law for the time being in force or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any law other than this Act.

7. Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act, 2005 contain various exemptions from disclosure of information to a citizen. These can be summarized as under:-

(i) Information, disclosure of which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, relation with foregin State or lead to incitement of an offence;

(ii) Information which has been expressly forbidden to be published by any court of law or tribunal or the disclosure of which may constitute contempt of court;

(iii) Information, the disclosure of which would cause a breach of privilege of Parliament or the State Legislature;

(iv) Information including commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of a third party;

(v) Information available to a person in his fiduciary relationship;

(vii) Information received in confidence from foreign Government;

(vii) Information, the disclosure of which would endanger the life or physical safety of any person or indentify the source of information or assistance given in confidence for law enforcement or security purposes;

(viii) Information which would impede the process of investigation or apprehension or prosecution of offenders;

(ix) Cabinet papers including records of deliberations of the Council of Ministers, Secretaries and other officers;

(x) Information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest, or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual;

Himachal Pradesh Right to Information Rules

8. Sections 27 and 28 of the RTI Act, 2005 empower the State Government and other competent authorities to make rules to carry out smooth and effective implementation of the provisions of the Act. In pursuance of these provisions, the Government of Himachal Pradesh and other Competent Authorities namely The Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha and The High Court of Himachal Pradesh have made the Rules under the Act. **The Himachal Pradesh Right to Information Rules, 2006** were notified by the State Government on 21st January, 2006. **"The Himachal Vidhan Sabha Secretariat Right to Information (Regulation of Fee & Cost) Rules, 2006"** were notified on 15th June, 2006 and "**The High Court of Himachal Pradesh Right to Information Rules, 2005"** were notified on 30th November, 2005.

9. The salient features of the Himachal Pradesh Right to Information Rules, 2006 are as under:-

(i) Any person seeking information or seeking to inspect the record is required to make an application to the PIO/APIO of the public authority concerned, accompanied by the proof of payment of prescribed fee.

(ii) Applicants belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category are not required to pay any fee for seeking the desired information or for inspection of any record.

(iii) A separate application is required to be filed for seeking information in respect of each subject and in respect of each year.

(iv) Every page of information supplied to the applicant shall be duly authenticated giving the name of the applicant and shall bear the dated signatures and seal of the PIO.

(v) The details of fee to be charged for furnishing the documents and for inspection of documents are given in the table below:—

Sr. No	Description of information	Price/Fee
1	Fee alongwith application.	₹10 per application.

2	Where the information is available in the form of a priced publication.	On printed price.
3	For other than priced publication.	(i) ₹2 per page of A-4 size or smaller. (ii) Actual cost subject to minimum of ₹20 per page in case of larger size paper.
4	Where information is available in electronic form and is to be supplied in electronic form e.g. Floppy, CD etc.	₹50 per floppy and ₹100 per CD.
5	Fee for inspection of Record/document.	₹20 per 30 minutes or fraction thereof.

(vi) The prescribed fee is required to be paid through Demand Draft or Indian Postal Order payable to the PIO of the public authority concerned or can be deposited in a government treasury under the head of account **"0070-OAS, 60-OS, 800-OR, 11 – Receipt head under Right to Information Act, 2005"**.

10. The Himachal Pradesh Right to Information Rules, 2006 also lays down the procedure for filing an appeal before the designated Appellate Authority of the public authority as well as before the Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission. As per provisions of these Rules, the memorandum of appeal should contain the name and address of the appellant as well as that of the PIO against whose decision the appeal is preferred along with particulars of the order against which the appeal is preferred. The appellant is required to file two sets of appeal. It should also contain brief facts leading to the appeal. In cases of deemed refusal, the particulars of the application, including number and date, name and address of the PIO to whom the application was made is required to be indicated by the appellant in the memorandum of appeal. The appellant is also required to specify the prayer or relief sought, and grounds for the prayer or relief sought in the memorandum of the appeal.

11. The Himachal Pradesh Right to Information Rules, 2006, under Rule 6(5) also provides that the designated Appellate Authority or the Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission, shall decide an appeal ex-parte, on merits of the

case, if the appellant is not present in person on the date of hearing. It has also been provided that the appellant shall not urge nor be heard in support of any ground or objection which has not been set forth in the memorandum of appeal filed before the Appellate Authority/Commission. However, the designated Appellate Authority/ Commission need not confine itself to the grounds set forth in the memorandum while deciding the appeal.

12. Himachal Pradesh Right to Information Rules, 2006, empowers the Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission to frame Regulations in respect of its day-to-day proceedings. Consequently the State Information Commission has framed the Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission (Management) Regulations, 2008 which came into force with effect from 1st September, 2008.

13. Section 25 (4) of the RTI Act, 2005 empowers Commissions to prepare a report on the implementation of the provisions of the Act during each year and forward the same to the appropriate Government for laying it before the Parliament/State Legislative Assemblies. In pursuance of the provision of the Act, the Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission, has prepared the Fourteenth Report on the implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in the State of Himachal Pradesh during the year 2018-19, for laying it before the State Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh.

CHAPTER -2

Role and Responsibilities of the Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission

The Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission was constituted vide a notification issued on 4th February, 2006 by the Department of Administrative Reforms of the Government of Himachal Pradesh. The Commission started functioning with effect from 1st March, 2006 with its headquarters at Shimla, on the assumption of the office of State Chief Information Commissioner, Himachal Pradesh by Shri P.S. Rana as the first Chief Information Commissioner, Himachal Pradesh. The Secretariat administration of the State Government provided secretarial staff and other support to the Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission right from 1st March, 2006 and thereafter. The Commission functioned as a single member body upto 1st July, 2007 and thereafter, Sh. S.S. Parmar joined as a State Information Commissioner on 2nd July, 2007. Details of Former and incumbent State Chief Information Commissioners and State Information Commissioners are as under:

State Chief Information Commissioners			
Sr. No.	Name	Date of Appointment	Date of Retirement
1.	Sh. Prem Singh Rana, IAS (Retd.)	01.03.2006	28.02.2011
2.	Sh. Bhim Sen, IAS (Retd.)	25.03.2011	23.03.2016
3.	Sh. Narinder Chauhan IAS (Retd.)	30.06.2017	-----
State Information Commissioners			
1.	Sh. Surjit Singh Parmar, IAS (Retd.)	02.07.2007	05.06.2012
2.	Sh. Kali Dass Batish	08.06.2012	07.06.2017
3.	Sh. Sushil Chandra Srivastava, IFS (Retd.)	30.06.2017	-----

2. During the financial year 2018-19, a sum of ₹ **2,33,68,000/-** was allocated under the Head 2070-00-118-01-SOON(NP) to the Commission for meeting its expenses. The break-up of the SOEs allocation is as under:-

SOE	Sub Head	Sanctioned Budget	Expenditure
01	Salary	14749000	14749938
02	Wages	58000	57960
03	Travel Expenses	66000	65432
05	Office Expenses	568000	568155
06	Medical Reimbursement	365000	365124
07	Rent, Rates & Taxes	4440000	4439964
09	Advertising & Publicity	3000	2514
10	Hospitality & Entertainment	65000	64940
11	Furnishings	174000	174404
12	Professional & Special Services	60000	60000
20	Other Charges	421000	421399
30	Motor Vehicle	1055000	1055232
65	Remuneration to Outsource Employees	1344000	1344330
	Grand Total	**23368000**	**23369392**

3. The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has created 35 posts for smooth functioning of the Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission. The details of these posts are as under:-

Sr. No	Designation of the posts	Pay scale + Grade pay of the post	No. of posts created
1.	Chief Information Commissioner	2,50,000/-	1
2.	State Information Commissioner	2,25,000/-	1
3.	Secretary (IAS/ HAS)	in their own pay scale	1
4.	Section Officer	15600-39100+ ₹ 5400	1
5.	Private Secretary	15600-39100+ ₹ 5400	2
6.	Reader-cum-Ahalmad	15600-39100+ ₹ 5400	2
7.	System Analyst	15600-39100+ ₹ 5400	1
8.	Personal Assistant	10300-34800 + ₹ 4800	4
9.	Senior Assistant	10300-34800+ ₹ 4400	2
10.	Clerk	10300-34800+ ₹ 3200	2

11.	Clerk-cum-Data Entry Operator	10300-34800+ ₹ 3200	2
12.	Junior Scale Stenographer	5910-20200 + ₹ 2800	4
13.	Driver	5910-20200 + ₹ 2400	3
14.	Process Server	4900-10680 + ₹ 1400	1
15.	Chowkidar	4900-10680 + ₹ 1300	1
16.	Peons	4900-10680 + ₹ 1300	5
17.	Frash-cum-Mali	4900-10680 + ₹ 1300	1
18.	Sweeper	4900-10680 + ₹ 1300	1
		Total	**35**

4. The Powers and Functions of the State Information Commission under the RTI Act, 2005 are as under:-

I. Enquiries under Section 18 of the Act.

(i) Subject to the provisions of the Act, the State Information Commission is required to receive and inquire into a complaint from any person,--

(a) who has been unable to submit a request to a PIO or whose request has been refused;

(b) who has been refused access to any information;

(c) who has not been given a response to a request for information or access to information within prescribed time limit;

(d) who has been required to pay an unreasonable amount of fee;

(e) who believes that he or she has been given incomplete, misleading or false information; and

(f) in respect of any other matter relating to requesting or obtaining access to records under this Act.

(ii) The Commission shall, while inquiring into any matter under this Section have the same powers as are vested in a civil court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in respect of the following matters, namely:-

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of persons and compel them to give oral or written evidence on oath and to produce the documents or things;

(b) requiring the discovery and inspection of documents;

(c) receiving evidence on affidavit;

(d) requisitioning any public record or copies thereof from any Court of Office;

(e) issuing summons for examination of witnesses or documents.

(f) any other matter which may be prescribed.

(iii) The Commission, during the inquiry of any complaint may examine any record to which this Act applies which is under the control of any public authority, and no such record may be withheld from it on any grounds.

II. Appeals under section 19 of the Act.

(i) A Second Appeal against the decision of first Appellate Authority shall lie with the State Information Commission within ninety days. However, the Commission, may admit an appeal after the expiry of the period of ninety days if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time.

(ii) If the decision against which an appeal is preferred relates to information of a third party, the Commission shall give a reasonable opportunity of being heard to that third party.

(iii) In any appeal, the onus to prove that a denial of a request was justified shall be on the PIO, who denied the request.

(iv) The decision of the State Information Commission, shall be binding.

(v) In its decision, the Commission has the power to require the public authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure compliance with the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 including grant of compensation to the complainant/ appellant.

III. Penalties under section 20 of the Act

(i) Where the Commission, at the time of deciding any complaint or appeal is of the opinion that the PIO has without any reasonable cause, refused to receive an application for information or has not furnished information within the time specified in section 7 of the RTI Act, 2005 or malafidely denied the request for information or knowingly given incorrect, incomplete or misleading information or destroyed information which was the subject of the request or obstructed in any manner furnishing of the information, it shall impose a penalty of two hundred and fifty rupees per day upon the PIO till the application is received or information is furnished.

(ii) Where the Commission, at the time of deciding any complaint or appeal is of the opinion that the PIO has without any reasonable cause and persistently, failed to receive an application for information or has not furnished information within the time specified under the RTI Act or malafidely denied the request for information or knowingly given incorrect, incomplete or misleading information or destroyed information which was the subject of the request or obstructed in any manner in furnishing the information, it may recommend disciplinary action against the PIO.

5. The powers and duties of officers and employees of the Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission are as under:-

Sr.No.	Designation	Power and duties
i	State Chief Information Commissioner	General superintendence, direction and management of affairs of the Commission. Disposal of appeals and complaints.
ii	State Information Commissioner	Disposal of appeals & complaints.
iii	Secretary-cum-Registrar	Administration and financial control in the Commission and to provide assistance to the State CIC/State IC.
iv	Private Secretary to the State CIC/State IC	Secretarial assistance and carry out work assigned by State CIC/ State IC
v	Reader-cum-Ahlmad	Processing of appeals and complaints and carry out work assigned by the State CIC and State IC.
vi	Section Officer-cum-Assistant Registrar	Assisting the Secretary-cum-Registrar in the administrative, financial and other matters of the Commission.
vii	The support staff	Providing assistance to the officers and carry out work assigned by supervisory officers of the Commission.

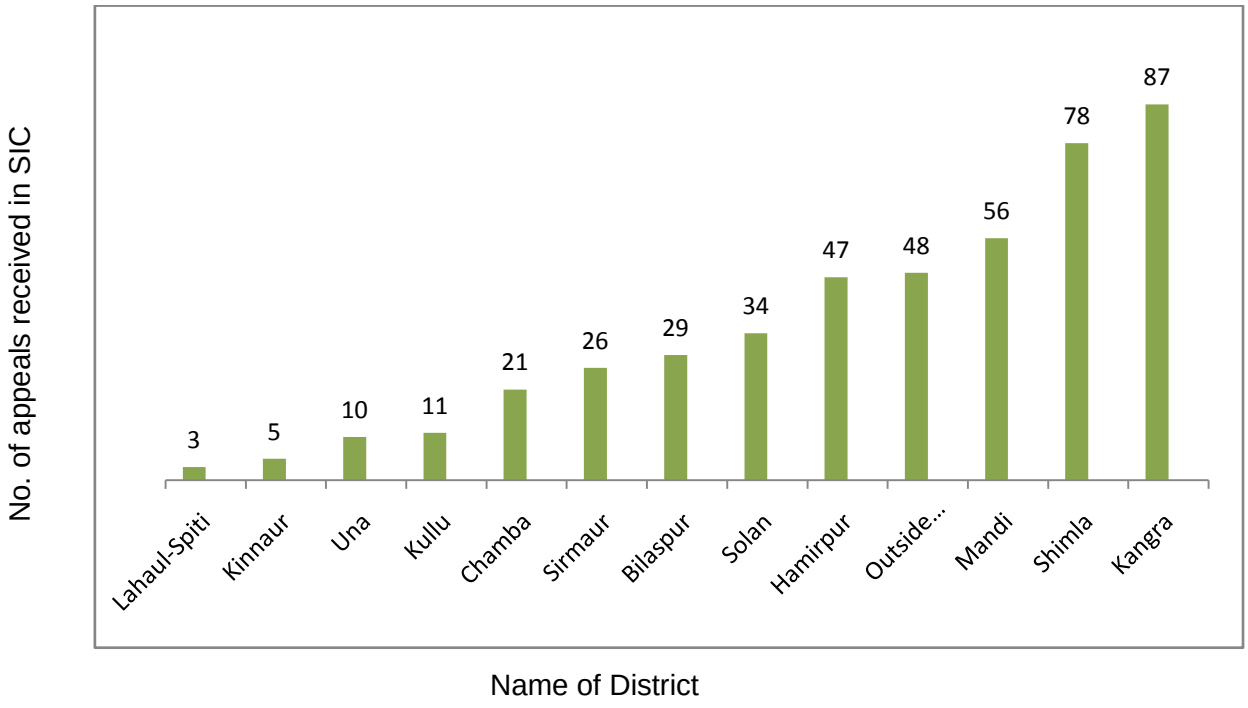
CHAPTER–3

Implementation of the Act

(Disposal of Appeals and Complaints by the Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission during the Year 2018-19)

The Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission received 455 appeals from various appellants residing in 12 districts of the State and outside the State against the decisions of Public Information Officers/first Appellate Authorities during the year 2018-19. 221 of these appeals were filed by appellants residing in three districts of state namely Shimla, Kangra and Mandi. The remaining 234 appeals were received from residents of the remaining districts and from outside the State. 416 appeals were pending as on 01.04.2018, in addition to 455 appeals received during the year 2018-19. The district wise status of appeals received in the Commission is given in the bar chart below:

District wise breakup of appeals received in the Commission



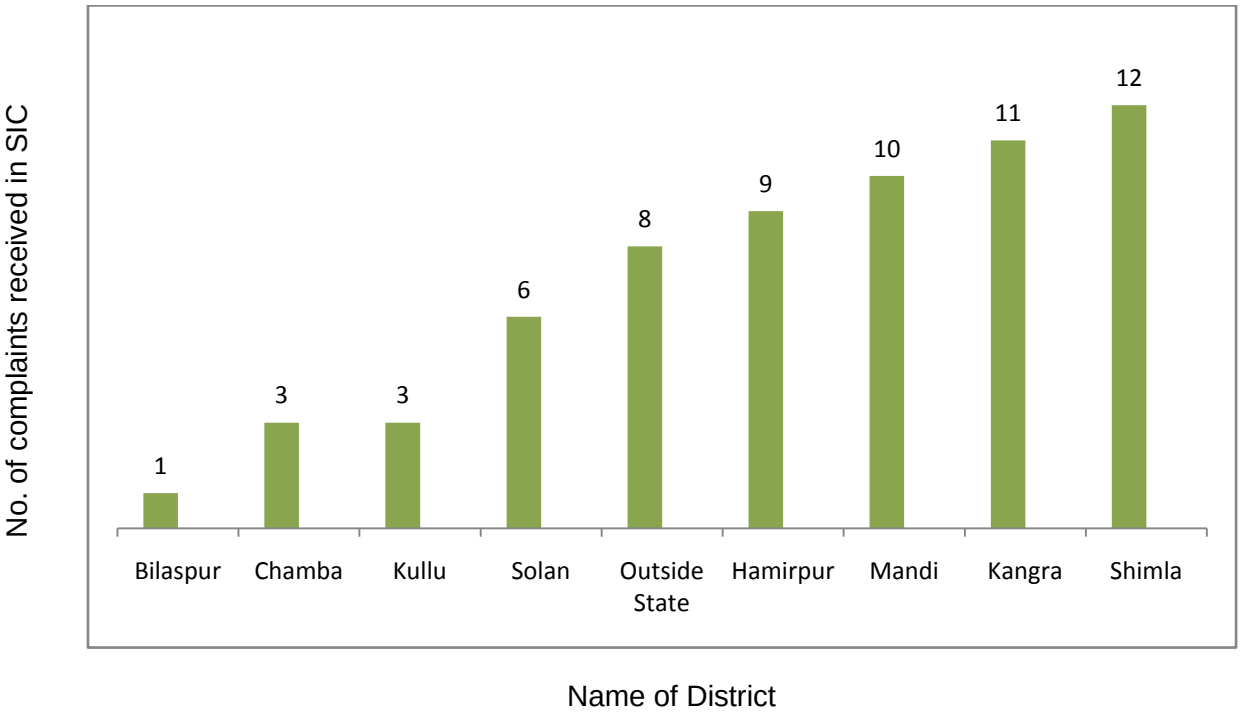
2. Out of the total of 871 appeals, 605 appeals were decided during the year leaving 266 appeals pending for decision as on 31.3.2019. The breakup of appeals decided/pending in the Commission is given in the table below:

(a) Appeals pending as on 1.4.2018	416

(b) Appeals received during the year	455
(c) Appeals decided during the year	605
(d) Appeals pending as on 31.3.2019	266

3. Apart from 455 appeals, the Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission received 63 complaints under Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005 during the year 2018-19. The complainants were from 8 districts of the state as well as from outside the state. However, 33 complaints (approx. 52% of the total complaints) were received from the complainants residing in three districts of state namely Shimla, Kangra and Mandi. The district wise status of complaints received during the year 2018-19 is given in the bar chart below:

District wise breakup of complaints received in the Commission



4. In addition to the 63 complaints received during the year, 18 complaints were pending as on 1.4.2018. Out of the total of 81 complaints, 62 complaints were decided by the Commission during the year and 19 complaints remained pending for disposal as on 31.3.2019. The breakup of the complaints received, decided and pending is given below:-

(a) Complaints pending as on 1.4.2018	18
(b) Complaints received during 2018-19	63

(c) Complaints decided during the year 62

(d) Complaints pending as on 31.3.2019 19

5. The consolidated details of appeals and complaints received in the Commission and decided during the year under report are as under:

CONSOLIDATED DETAILS OF CASES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION DURING THE YEAR 2018-19			
	APPEALS	**COMPLAINTS**	**TOTAL**
PENDING AS ON 1.4.2018	416	18	434
FILED DURING THE YEAR	455	63	518
Total	871	81	952
DECIDED	605	62	667
PENDING AS ON 31.3.2019	266	19	285

CHAPTER-4

State Information Commission: A Glimpse of Important Statistics 2018-19

a) Number of public authorities which submitted Annual Return to the State Information Commission : 107

b) Number of applications filed with various public authorities under the RTI Act, 2005 from 01.04.2018 to 31.03.2019 : 64233

c) Number of applications rejected by the Public Information Officers (PIOs) of these public authorities : 515

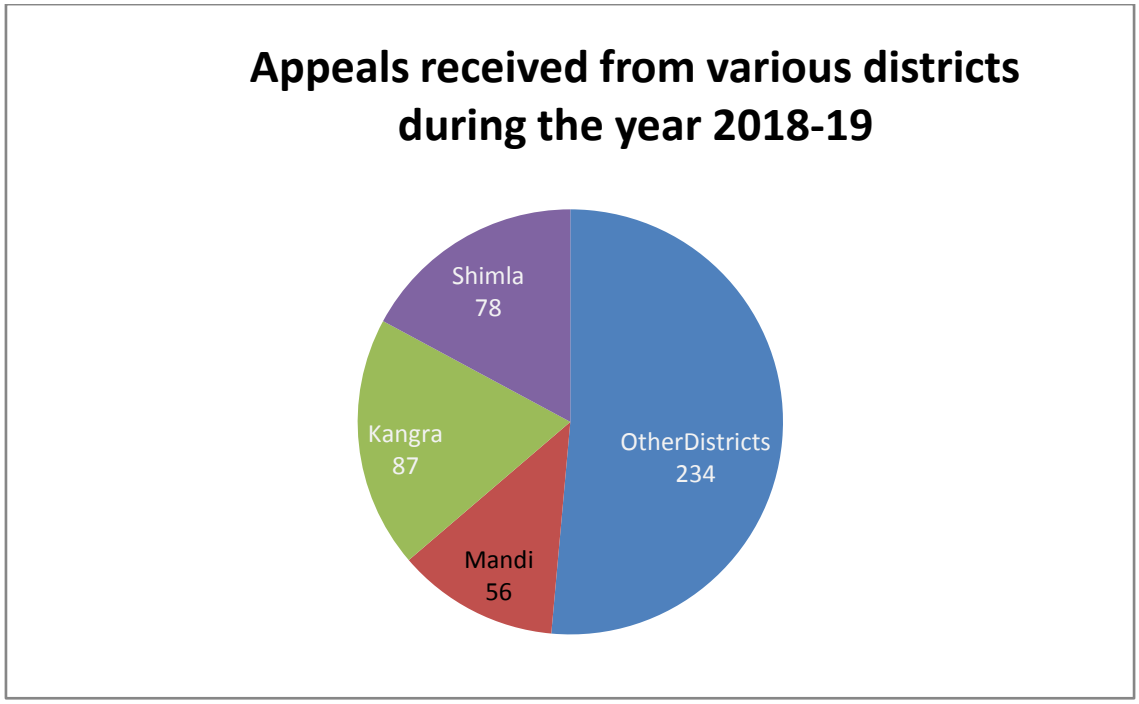
d) Total amount of fee and additional fee collected by the PIOs : 1902362

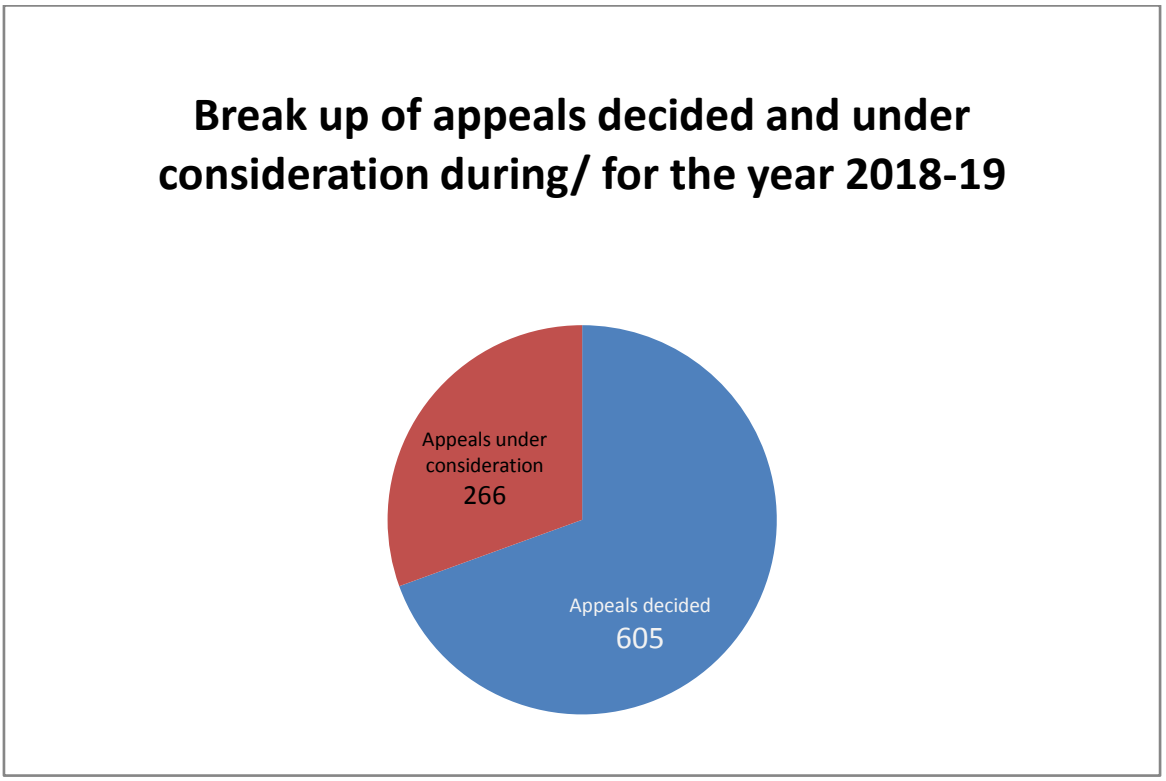
e) Number of first appeals filed under section 19 of the RTI Act, 2005 with the Appellate Authorities during the year : 1623

f)
(i) Number of second appeals filed under section 19 of the RTI Act, 2005 during the year with the Commission : 455
(ii) Number of appeals in process as on 01.04.2018 : 416
(iii) Total number of appeals : 871
(iv) Number of second appeal decided by the Commission during the year : 605

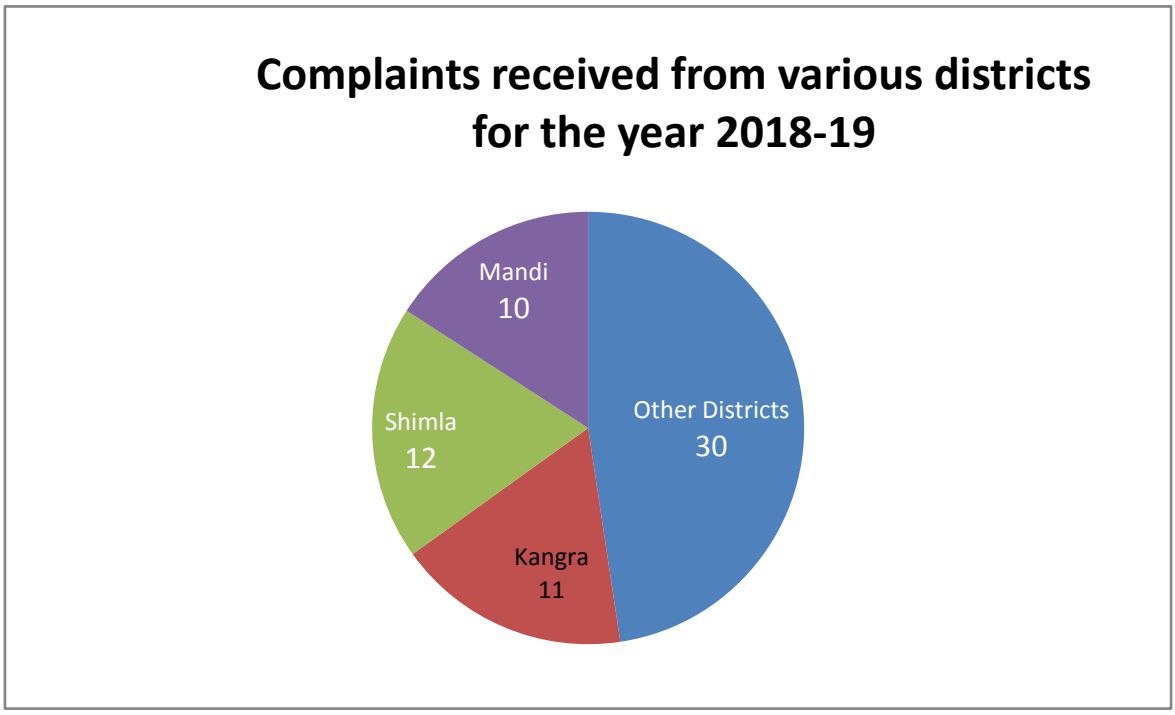
g)
(i) Number of complaints filed under section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005 during the year with the Commission : 63
(ii) Number of complaints in process as on 01.04.2018 : 18
(iii) Total number of Complaints : 81
(iv) Number of Complaints decided during the year : 62

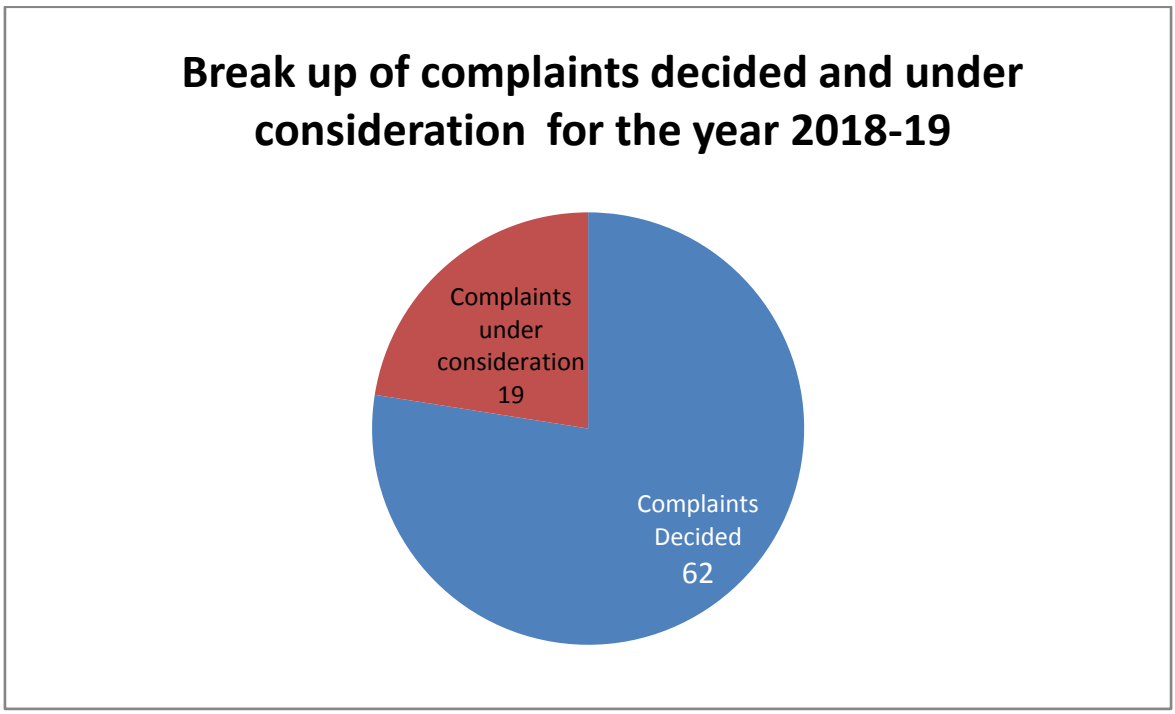
Break up of Appeals received, decided and under consideration in the State Information Commission during the year 2018-19





Break up of Complaints received, decided and under consideration in the State Information Commission for the year 2018-19





CHAPTER-5

Implementation of Act

Disposal of Applications/ Appeals by the Public Information Officers/ First Appellate Authorities of various Public Authorities in Himachal Pradesh during the Year 2018-19

Sections 6, 7, 11 of the RTI Act, 2005, read with HP RTI Rules, 2006 prescribes the procedure and time frame for furnishing the information held by public authorities to the information seekers through the Public Information Officers, designated for the purpose. As per reports received in the Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission, 64,233 applications were filed in the offices of 107 public authorities of the State Government for seeking information under the Act during 2018-19. The details of applications received, applications rejected, and appeals filed, fee collected etc. by these public authorities are as under:—

Sr. No.	Name of Public Authority	Number of applications received	Applications rejected by the PIOs	Appeals filed before the First Appellate Authorities	Appeals filed before the State Information Commission	Number of cases where compensation was awarded by the Commission	Number of cases where penalty was imposed by the Commission	Amount of fee collected
1.	Governor Secretariat	20	----	1	1	----	----	720
2.	H.P. Judiciary	2327	5	17	----	----	----	169012
3.	State Information Commission	30	----	----	------	-----	--------	950
4.	Lokayukta	16	----	----	----	----	----	160
5.	Human Rights Commission	5	----	----	----	----	----	140
6.	Commission for Backward Class	2	----	----	----	----	----	110
7.	Divisional Commissioner Shimla	34	----	----	----	----	----	1464
8.	Divisional Commissioner Kangra	92	----	----	----	----	----	4127
9.	Divisional Commissioner Mandi	86	----	3	----	----	----	3885

10.	Advocate General	26	----	4	----	----	----	900
11.	HP Judicial Academy	3	----	----	----	----	----	120
12.	HP Public Service Commission	932	----	67	14	----	----	30128
13.	Election Commission	6	----	1	----	----	----	50
14.	Staff Selection Commission	1091	202	65	3	----	----	48000
	H.P. Secretariat							
15.	General Administration	105	----	----	----	----	----	2389
16.	Urban Development	28	----	----	----	----	----	780
17.	Revenue	239	----	----	1	----	----	7379
18.	Forest	72	----	----	----	----	----	5503
19.	Co-operation	12	----	----	2	----	----	510
20.	Social Justice	62	----	1	----	----	----	600
21.	Law	35	----	1	----	----	----	550
22.	Administrative Reforms	13	----	1	----	----	----	100
23.	Ayurveda	20	----	----	----	----	----	440
24.	Labour & Employment	23	----	1	1	----	----	870
25.	Animal Husbandry	21	----	----		----	----	470
26.	Elementary Education	171	----	5	1	----	----	2489
27.	Housing	1	----	----	----	----	----	20
	Administrative Departments							
28.	Animal Husbandry	206	1	6	----	----	----	13466
29.	Art, Language & Culture	30	----	----	1	----	----	1173
30.	Co-operative	767	6	33	7	1	----	36501
31.	Elementary Education	2666		84	21	1	----	54383
32.	Higher Education	6625	41	142	32	2	1	52758
33.	Ayurveda	239	----	1	----	----	----	4538
34.	Information & Public	55	2	5	----	----	----	2170

	Relations							
35.	Jal Shakti	2340	7	121	15	----	----	69510
36.	Public Works Department	3778	15	126	35	2	1	118485
37.	Information Technology	21	----	----	----	----	----	450
38.	Dental Health	49	----	----	----	----	----	930
39.	Health and Family Welfare	467	----	21	14	----	----	8403
40.	Food & Civil Supplies	342	----	8		----	----	18773
41.	Forest	2411	4	64	17	1	----	54452
42.	Forensic Science	38	1	1	1	----	----	2936
43.	Police	7535	82	179	26	----	----	181886
44.	Transport	792	1	28	12	----	----	29169
45.	Horticulture	122	----	7	----	----	----	4957
46.	Industries	677	----	18	4	----	----	21631
47.	Excise & Taxation	520	8	14	7	----	----	
48.	Sainik Welfare	121	----	4	----	----	----	2983
49.	Vigilance	23	----	4	-----	----	----	750
50.	SV&ACB	316	14	16	1	----	----	5162
51.	Economics & Statistics	18	----	----	----	----	----	520
52.	Consolidation of Holdings	35	----	----	----	----	----	690
53.	Land Records	58	----	----	----	----	----	840
54.	Labour & Employment	707	-----	30	2	----	----	28658
55.	Rural Development & Panchayati Raj	2905	11	144	62	2	1	274389
56.	Settlement (Shimla)	277	9	----	----	----	----	15939
57.	Settlement (Kangra)	576	----	11	----	----	----	17260
58.	Printing & Stationery	20	----	----	----	----	----	1596
59.	Empowerment of SCs, OBCs, Minorities and Specially Abled	256	----	11	----	----	----	4020

60.	Tourism	236	----	----	----	----	----	9826
61.	HIPA	39	----	2	----	----	----	2360
62.	Women & Child Development	783	----	10	4	----	----	18473
63.	Fire	35	----	1	----	----	----	2072
64.	Urban Development	1551	----	56	8	1	----	30911
65.	Planning	130	----	1	----	----	----	5048
66.	Electrical Inspectorate	3	----	----	----	----	----	70
67.	Fisheries	32	----	1	----	----	----	1195
68.	Election	128	----	----	1	----	----	2075
69.	Local Audit	7	1	3	3	----	----	760
70.	Home guards	144	----	----	----	----	----	4834
71.	Technical Education	383	----	13	----	----	----	13204
72.	Energy	47	----	----	----	----	----	6465
	Deputy Commissioners							
73.	Bilaspur	1609	----	78	5	1	----	33968
74.	Chamba	866	----	29	6	----	----	13506
75.	Hamirpur	1472	23	61	18	----	1	30757
76.	Kangra	3239	----	109	30	----	----	56481
77.	Kinnaur	270	----	----	2	1	----	9800
78.	Kullu	922	----	9	4	----	----	107982
79.	Mandi	2335	60	61	14	----	----	40864
80.	Shimla	1347	----	113	12	----	----	27521
81.	Sirmaur	590	----	10	5	----	----	10776
82.	Solan	1354	5	97	9	----	----	22476
83.	Una	1084	04	14	3	----	----	19190
84.	Lahaul & Spiti	65	----	2	----	----	----	430
	Corporations							

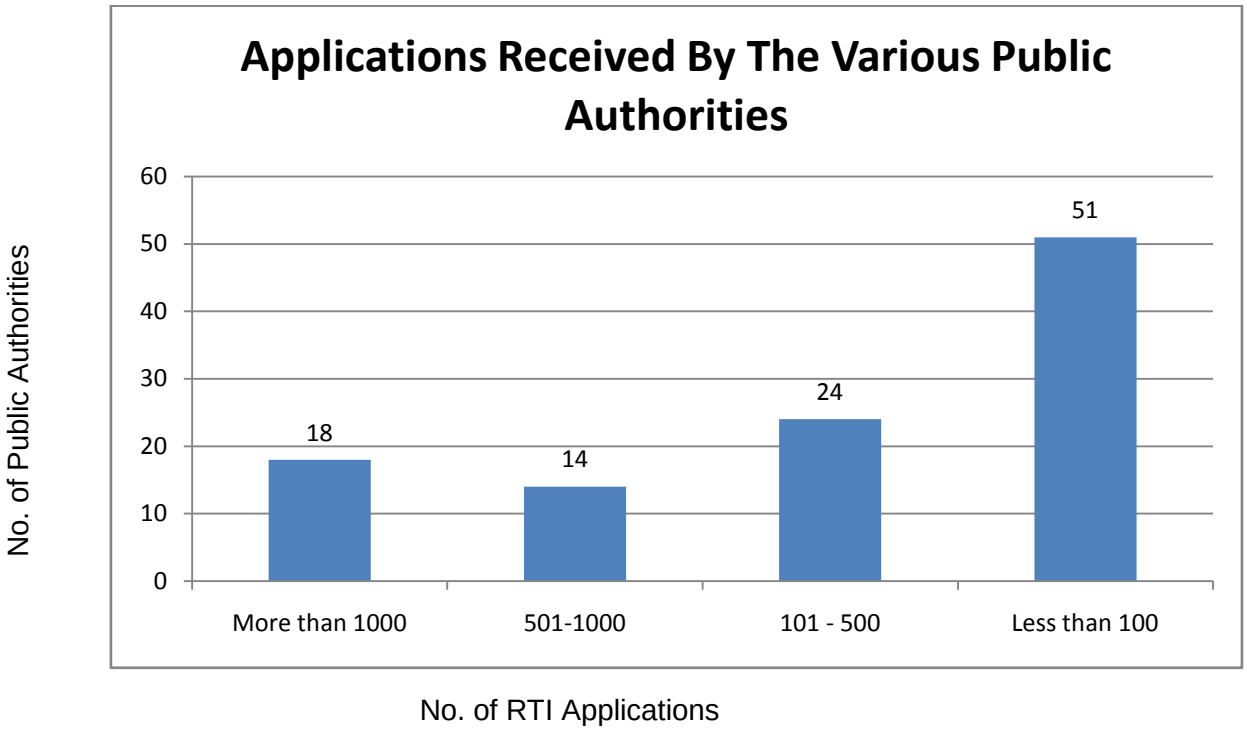
85.	Handloom & Handicraft	5	----	----	----	----	----	440
86.	Agro Industries	5	----	----	----	----	----	250
87.	HPFC	33	----	----	----	----	----	2751
88.	Forest Corporation	586	----	28	2	----	----	16783
89.	H.P.M.C.	8	----	----	----	----	----	220
90.	Electronic Corporation	11	----	----	----	----	----	490
91.	MC Shimla	905	----	112	15	----	----	18474
92.	MC Dharamshala	209	----	19	9	----	----	4810
93.	General Industries	28	----	5	----	----	----	2090
94.	HPTDC	265	----	9	----	----	1	6420
95.	HPSIDC	12	----	2	----	----	----	1910
96.	Jal Prabandhan	131	----	15	----	----	----	1086
97.	HRTC	615	----	30	15	1	----	6422
	Boards/ Societies							
98.	HP Infrastructure Development Board	2	----	----	----	----	----	20
99.	HIMUDA	274	----	14	3	----	----	9657
100.	Technical Education Board	54	----	----	----	----	----	2520
101.	HIMURJA	45	----	1	----	----	----	1010
102.	Khadi Board	53	----	1	----	----	----	2688
103.	Kaushal Vikas Nigam	3	----	----	----	----	----	100
	Universities/ Colleges							
104.	HP University, Shimla	1336	7	23	3	----	----	25789
105.	Dr. Y. S. Parmar UoH&F	93	6	3	1	----	----	5169
106.	CSK HP Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya Palampur	289	----	7	----	----	----	7354
107.	IGMC	136	----	13	3	----	----	3621
	Total	**64233**	**515**	**2197**	**455**	**13**	**5**	**1902362**

2. The above table clearly shows that the Public Information Officers of various public authorities in the state furnished the information to all the applicants except in 515 cases where the applications were rejected. Thus only 0.8% of the total applications were rejected by the PIOs.

3. The public authorities have reported that most of the 515 applications were rejected under section 8 of the RTI Act, 2005. The table above also shows that number of first appeals is also less than 3.4% of the total applications. The Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission received 455 appeals as against 2197 first appeals filed with the designated Appellate Authorities. In addition, the Commission also received 63 complaints during the year for non-receipt of or receipt of incomplete information or delayed response from the PIOs. Thus the Commission received a total of 518 appeals/complaints as against a total of 64233 RTI applications filed with various public authorities during the year. The number of appeals/complaints received in the Commission is approximately 0.8% of the total applications. These figures lead to the conclusion that response of the PIOs in Himachal Pradesh to the requests for information received from the information seekers during the year 2018-19, has been quite satisfactory.

4. The table below gives the break-up of quantum of applications received by various public authorities in the state during the year 2018-19:-

Sr. No.	Public Authorities which received	Number
i	More than 1000 RTI applications	18
ii	501 to 1000 RTI applications	14
iii	101 to 500 RTI applications	24
iv	Less than 100 RTI applications	51
	Total number of public authorities which submitted the annual reports	**107**



5. Out of the total of 107 public authorities which submitted the annual reports during the year, 18 public authorities received more than 1000 applications, 14 of them received 501 to 1000 applications, 24 of them received 101 to 500 applications and the remaining 51 public authorities received less than 100 applications. 18 public authorities namely **H.P. Judiciary, Staff Selection Commission, Elementary Education, Higher Education, Jal Shakti, Public Works Department, Forest, Police, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Urban Development, HP University Shimla, DC Offices Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Shimla, Solan and Una** received more than 1000 applications during the year. It has been observed that a total of 62,699 applications out of 64,233 applications i.e. approximately 97.6% of the total applications were received by 56 public authorities. The remaining 51 public authorities received approximately 2.4% of the total applications. Further, a fee of ₹19,02,362/- has been collected by various public authorities during the same period.

CHAPTER–6

Implementation of The RTI Act, 2005, During the Past Fourteen Years

The RTI Act, 2005 came into force w.e.f. 12th October, 2005. The public authorities initiated steps to implement various provisions of the Act namely the designation of PIOs/ APIOs & Appellate Authorities and publication under section 4 (i) (b) of the Act. The PIOs and APIOs started receiving applications even before the State Information Commission started functioning w.e.f. 01.03.2006. The details of RTI Applications received, first appeal filed and fee collected by the public authorities since October 2005 to 2018-19, are as under:-

Year	No. of Public Authorities	Total Applications Received	No. of Applications Rejected by PIOs	First Appeals Received by 1st Appellate Authorities	Amount of fee collected (in ₹)
2006-07	110	2,654	119	127	2,34,281
2007-08	118	10,105	283	267	6,00,495
2008-09	124	17,869	259	338	8,07,939
2009-10	134	43,835	442	706	10,89,504
2010-11	125	55,463	701	1220	14,32,417
2011-12	132	72,191	840	1381	19,56,046
2012-13	110	61,202	1396	1232	14,45,954
2013-14	110	63,722	1074	1716	14,98,202
2014-15	80	50675	2143	635	11,14,962
2015-16	62	46430	684	1558	10,02,958
2016-17	101	60,104	1981	1899	14,69,999
2017-18	103	59,529	3737	1623	13,60,248
2018-19	107	64,233	515	2197	19,02,362

2. The above table shows that the number of applications filed by the information seekers to the PIOs of various public authorities during the past fourteen years increased from the first year to the fourteenth year from 2654 to 64233, which is an increase of approximately 24 times. It leads to the conclusion that awareness about the Act has been increasing year after year. The percentage of rejection of applications by PIOs has also been going down year after year. Thus the response of the PIOs has been showing a positive trend over the years.

3. The year-wise details of appeals received in the State Information Commission from 1st March, 2006 upto 31.3.2019 are as under:-

Total Appeals Received and Decided from 01.03.2006 to 31.03.2019					
Period	**In Process at the beginning of the year**	**Received during the year**	**Total appeals**	**Decided during the year**	**In Process at the end of the year**
1.3.2006 to 31.3.2007	-----	32	32	24	8
1.4.2007 to 31.3.2008	8	155	163	125	38
1.4.2008 to 31.3.2009	38	180	218	195	23
1.4.2009 to 31.3.2010	23	270	293	276	17
1.4.2010 to 31.3.2011	17	300	317	277	40
1.4.2011 to 31.3.2012	40	451	491	379	112
1.4.2012 to 31.3.2013	112	427	539	429	110
1.4.2013 to 31.3.2014	110	670	780	522	258
1.4.2014 to 31.3.2015	258	615	873	638	235
1.4.2015 to 31.3.2016	235	635	870	534	336
1.4.2016 to 31.3.2017	336	428	764	236	528
1.4.2017 to 31.3.2018	528	425	953	537	416
1.4.2018 to 31.3.2019	416	455	871	605	266
Total		***5043***		***4777***	

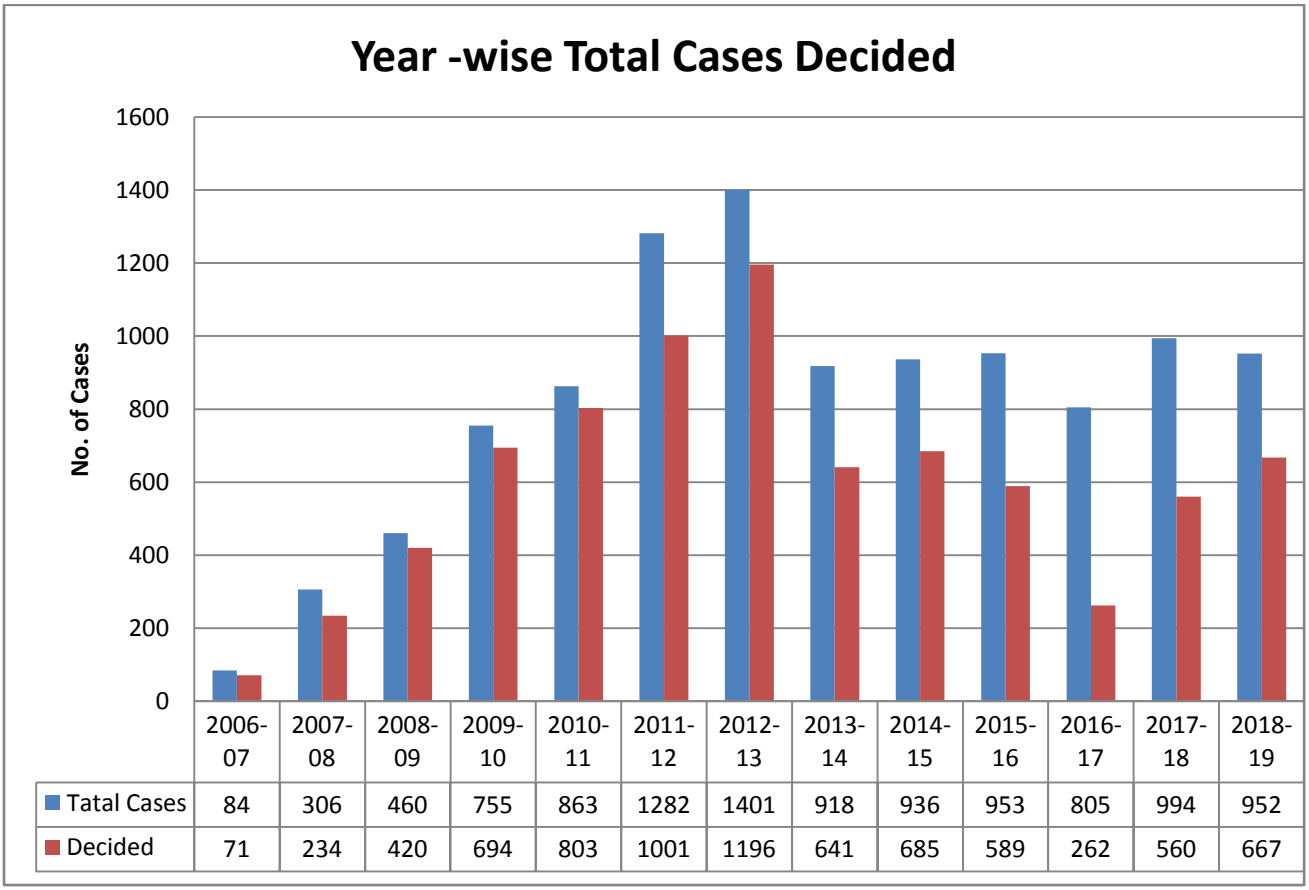
4. The year-wise details of complaints received in the Commission from 1.3.2006 to 31.3.2019 are as under:-

Total Complaints Received and Decided from 01.03.2006 to 31.03.2019					
Period	**In Process at the beginning of the year**	**Received during the year**	**Total complaints**	**Decided during the year**	**In Process at the end of the year**
1.3.2006 to 31.3.2007	-----	52	52	47	5
1.4.2007 to 31.3.2008	5	134	139	105	34
1.4.2008 to 31.3.2009	34	204	238	221	17
1.4.2009 to 31.3.2010	17	445	462	418	44
1.4.2010 to 31.3.2011	44	503	547	526	21
1.4.2011 to 31.3.2012	21	770	791	622	169
1.4.2012 to 31.3.2013	169	693	862	767	95
1.4.2013 to 31.3.2014	95	43	138	119	19
1.4.2014 to 31.3.2015	19	44	63	47	16
1.4.2015 to 31.3.2016	16	67	83	55	28
1.4.2016 to 31.3.2017	28	13	41	26	15
1.4.2017 to 31.3.2018	15	26	41	23	18
1.4.2018 to 31.3.2019	18	63	81	62	19
Total		***3057***		***3038***	

5. The year-wise details of the appeals and complaints received in the Commission from 1st March, 2006 to 2018-19 are as under:-

Year-wise break up of appeals and complaints received & decided by the Commission					
Period	**In Process at the beginning of the year**	**Received during the year**	**Total**	**Decided during the year**	**In Process at the end of the year**
1.3.2006 to 31.3.2007	-	84	84	71	13

1.4.2007 to 31.3.2008	13	293	306	234	72
1.4.2008 to 31.3.2009	72	388	460	420	40
1.4.2009 to 31.3.2010	40	715	755	694	61
1.4.2010 to 31.3.2011	61	803	863	803	61
1.4.2011 to 31.3.2012	61	1221	1282	1001	281
1.4.2012 to 31.3.2013	281	1120	1401	1196	205
1.4.2013 to 31.3.2014	205	713	918	641	277
1.4.2014 to 31.3.2015	277	659	936	685	251
1.4.2015 to 31.3.2016	251	702	953	589	364
1.4.2016 to 31.3.2017	364	441	805	262	543
1.4.2017 to 31.3.2018	543	451	994	560	434
1.4.2018 to 31.3.2019	434	518	952	667	285
Total		***8108***		***7823***	



6. The above chart shows that during the year 2006-2007, 84 appeals and complaints were received from the appellants/ complainants against 2654 RTI applications received by the Public Authorities, during this year which is approximately 3.2% of the total RTI applications. During the year 2007-2008, 293 appeals and complaints were received from the appellants/ complainants against 10,105 RTI applications received by the Public Authorities which is approximately 2.8% of the total RTI applications. During the year 2008-2009, 388 appeals and complaints were received from the appellants/ complainants against 17,869 RTI applications received by the Public Authorities which is approximately 2% of the total RTI applications. During the year 2009-10, 715 appeals and complaints were received as against 43,835 RTI applications which is approximately 1.6% of the total applications. During the year 2010-11, 803 appeals and complaints were received as against 55,463 RTI applications which is approximately 1.4% of the total applications. During the year 2011-12, 1221 appeals and complaints were received as against 72,191 RTI applications which is approximately 1.7% of the total applications. During the year 2012-13, 1120 appeals and complaints were received as against 61,202 RTI applications which is approximately 1.8% of the total applications. During the year 2013-14, 713 appeals and complaints were received as against 63,722 RTI applications which is approximately 1.1% of the total applications. During the year 2014-15, 659 appeals and complaints were received as against 50,675 RTI applications which is approximately 1.3% of the total applications. During the year 2015-16, 702 appeals and complaints were received as against 46,430 RTI applications which is approximately 1.5% of the total applications. During the year 2016-17, 441 appeals and complaints were received as against 60104 RTI applications which is approximately 0.7% of the total applications. During the year 2017-18, 451 appeals and complaints were received as against 59,529 RTI applications which is approximately 0.8% of the total applications. During the year under report, 518 appeals and complaints were received as against 64233 RTI applications which is approximately 0.8% of the total applications. The above calculated percentage shows that the performance of the PIOs has been improving year after year during the past fourteen years.

7. During the last fourteen years, 7823 appeals and complaints have been decided by the Commission. However only 62 Civil Writ Petitions have been filed in the High Court of Himachal Pradesh against the decisions/ orders of the State Information Commission. The details of these writ petitions are as under:-

Sr. No.	Case Title/ Case No.	Status
1.	H.P. Public Service Commission V/S State Information Commission CWP-96/09	Decided
2.	State of H.P. V/S Sh. Surinder Singh Mankotia CWP-3823/2009	Decided
3.	State of H.P. V/S Dr. P.K. Aditya CWP-2418/2010	Pending in the High Court
4.	Justice M.R.Verma (Retd.) V/S State Information Commission CWP-2070/2010	Decided
5.	Justice M.R.Verma (Retd.) V/S State Information Commission CWP-1964/2010	Decided
6.	State of H.P. V/S Sh. Sanjay Gupta CWP-1050/2010	Decided
7.	Ms. Kalpna Grover V/S State of H.P. CWP-4632/2010	Decided
8.	Sh. Sanjay Mandyal V/S State of H.P. CWP-5418/2010	Decided
9.	Smt. Ram Payari V/S State of H.P. CWP-6404/2010	Decided
10.	Sh.Ram Ashra V/S State of HP CWP 7462/2010	Decided
11.	State of HP V/S Sh. Archit Sant and others CWP-7767/2010	Decided
12.	Sh. Dharam Pal V/S State of HP and others CWP-2446/2010	Decided
13.	The Secretary Lokayukta V/S Sh.Hari Krishan and others CWP 533/2011	Decided
14.	Miss Ritwik Chauhan V/S State of HP CWP-1910/2011	Decided
15.	CWP 8794/2011 Shri Ved Parkash Vs. State Information Commission & others	Decided
16.	CWP No. 11220 of 2011 M/s Kanchanjanga Power Co. Pvt. Ltd., V/s State Information Commission,H.P.	Decided
17.	CWP No. 1240/2010 Shri Swapan Kumar Thakur, Vs SIC & another	Decided
18.	CWP No. 640/2012 Shri Sanjay Hindwan Vs State Inforamtion Commission, DFO, Solan and E.O. MC, Solan	Decided
19.	CWP No. 2435/2012 The Didwin Co-operative Society vs State of HP	Decided
20.	CWP No. 6072/2012 BDO Paonta Sahib vs. State of HP	Decided
21.	CWP No. 9166/2012 Prakash Chand Negi Vs. State Information Commission	Decided
22.	CWP No.9210 /2012 Prakash Chand Negi Vs. State Information Commission	Decided
23.	CWP No. 8196/2012 Baghal Land Looser Transport Co-operative Society Ltd. Vs. State of HP	Decided
24.	CWP No. 9109/2012 The Ambuja Darla Kashlog Mangu Transport Co-operative Society Ltd. Vs. State of HP	Decided

25.	CWP No. 5975/2012 P.C.Manhas Vs. State of HP	Decided
26.	CWP No. 63/2013 Voluntary Health Association Vs. State of HP	Pending in the High Court
27.	CWP No. 798/2013 Anjala Kumari Vs. State Information Commission	Decided
28.	CWP No. 4618/2013 Indresh Dhiman Vs. State of HP	Pending in the High Court
29.	CWP No.6914/2013 Rajesh Chandra Vs. State Of HP.	Pending in the High Court
30.	CWP No. 7167/2013 Tanu Priya Vs. State of HP.	Decided
31.	CWP No. 7834/2013 Shyam Lal Vs. State of HP.	Decided
32.	CWP No. 6537/2013 Phool Singh Vs. State of HP.	Decided
33.	CWP No. 8900/2013 Amar Singh Vs. State of HP.	Pending in the High Court
34.	CWP No. 9139/2013-D Advocate General Vs. Dev Ashish Bhattacharya	Decided
35.	CWP No. 9108/2013 Madhu Negi Vs. State Information Commission and Others.	Decided
36.	CWP No. 294/2014 Ravi Kumar Vs. State of HP.	Decided
37.	CWP No. 2242/2014 Hira Singh Vs . State of HP & Othrs.	Decided
38.	CWP No. 5410/2014 Hitesh Chand Vs . State of HP & Othrs.	Decided
39.	CWP No. 5434/2014 Rakesh Thakur Vs State Information Commission	Pending in the High Court
40.	CWP No. 6572/2014 Yog Raj Vs. State of HP & Othrs	Decided
41.	CWP No. 8511/2014 Ajay Prashar Vs . State of HP & Othrs	Decided
42.	CWP No. 555/2015 Lawan Thakur Vs State of HP	Decided
43.	CWP No. 1367/2015 Shekhar S. Srivastava Vs State Information Commission	Decided
44.	CWP No. 684/2015 Roshan Lal & Others Vs State Information Commission	Decided

45.	CWP No. 3034/2015 Jagdish Kumar Vs State of HP	Decided
46.	CWP No. 3144/2015 Priyanka Gandhi Vs State of HP	Pending in the High Court
47.	CWP No. 3625/2015 Vikram Singh Vs State of HP	Pending in the High Court
48.	CWP No. 3767/2015 Ramesh Kumar Nadda Vs State Information Commission	Pending in the High Court
49.	CWP No. 4272/2015 PIO HP State Pollution Control Board Vs State Information Commission	Pending in the High Court
50.	CWP No. 385/2016 Sangeeta Devi Vs State of HP	Pending in the High Court
51.	CWP No. 3450/2016 Sukhjit Singh Vs State Chief Information Commissioner	Decided
52.	CWP No. 1731/2016 Nihal Singh Vs State of HP	Decided
53.	CWP No. 2288/2016 Samsher Singh Vs. State of HP	Decided
54.	CWP No. 1879/2016 K.R. Saizal Vs State of HP	Pending in the High Court
55.	CWP No. 1714/2017 Madan Lal Shrama Vs State of HP	Decided
56.	CWP No. 2728/2017 Rajinder Singh Vs State of HP	Decided
57.	CWP No. 351/2018 Narayan Mishra Vs State of HP	Decided
58.	CWP No. 2033/2018 Yash Pal Singh Vs State of HP	Pending in the High Court
59.	CWP No. 1106/2018 Pratap Singh Vs State of HP	Pending in the High Court
60.	CWP No. 1350/2018 Dr. Sukhjit Singh Vs State of HP	Pending in the High Court
61.	CWP No. 3003 & 3004/2018 Himender Kumar Vs State of HP & Others	Decided
62.	CWP No. 78/2019 DAV Centenary Public School Theog Vs State of HP	Pending in the High Court

CHAPTER – 7

Use of Information Technology and New Initiatives Taken by State Information Commission

The Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission has placed the following information/documents on the website of the Commission (sic.hp.gov.in) :-

(i) The Right To Information Act, 2005 and HP RTI Rules, 2006

(ii) Manual of the Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission under section 4(1) (b) of the RTI Act, 2005.

(iii) The Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission (Management) Regulations, 2008.

(iv) Decisions of appeals and complaints filed in the Commission.

(v) Cause list of appeals & complaints

(vi) Annual Reports of previous years

2. The State Information Commission, H.P. has innovated a computerized system of registration of complaints/appeals and responses from PIO's, Public Authorities and for general public which enables the Commission and other stake holders to have all the information readily available about the appeals/complaints received, in process and disposed off on a daily basis. Through this software application, office of the Commission diarises every letter received from the applicant, complainant, appellant and others after scrutiny and categorization of the same as Complaint (C), Appeal (A), Response (R) & General (G) on the following basis :

1	Appeals	'A'	The petitions being filed by citizens/appellants as per relevant HPRTI Rules/ u/s 19 of the RTI Act.
2	Complaints	'C'	The petitions/complaints u/s 18 as per relevant HP RTI Rules.
3.	Responses	'R'	The responses being received from PIO's/other officers/citizens w.r.t. to the ongoing inquires/appeals before the Commission will be marked to Reader of Court-I/Court-II as the case may be.
4	General	'G'	All the papers except mentioned at Sr. No. (1), (2) and (3) above will be marked as 'G' and further marked to General Section for disposal.

This software application has helped to track, compile and monitor the disposal of each and every paper received in the Commission in a transparent and expeditious manner.

3. The State Information Commission, Himachal Pradesh has set up a Video Conferencing System which is facilitating the Appellant/ Public Information Officers to participate in the hearing without incurring additional cost of travel to the office of State Information Commission at Shimla and also saving their precious time enabling them to devote such period to office work. The active participation of applicant/ appellant is also encouraging better implementation of the Act.

4. In order to further strengthen the RTI regime at the grass root level and to facilitate the information seekers at their door step, the State Information Commission has taken a decision to hold periodical hearings of complaints and appeals at Revenue Division levels. This initiative has facilitated the RTI applicants to participate in the hearings without incurring an additional cost of travel to the State Capital headquarters where the office of State Information Commission is situated. Active participation of RTI applicants is an encouraging sign of better implementation of the Right to Information Act.

5. The State Information Commission, Himachal Pradesh in coordination with Administrative Reforms Department, Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration and Districts Administration is organizing workshops in all the twelve districts of Himachal Pradesh, on a periodical basis for the First Appellate Authorities, PIOs, APIOs, and other stakeholders like elected representatives of Panchayats, Urban Local bodies, Mahila/Yuvak Mandals and media personnel. These workshops have really proved effective in bringing in awareness about the applicability of the RTI Act, in its real perspective.

CHAPTER – 8

Observations and Recommendations

In the earlier reports submitted under section 25(1) of the RTI Act, 2005, the Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission had made certain recommendations for smooth and effective implementation of the RTI Act, 2005 in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The State Government has taken action on these recommendations. However, the attention of the Government is drawn to some of the recommendations which require further action at the level of the State Government. These are being included as part of the observations and recommendations being made in this report in a tabular form:

Sr.No.	Observations and Recommendations	Status of Action Taken
1.	In the earlier First to Thirteenth reports, the Commission had recommended finalization of a time bound programme for implementing the following provisions of Section 4 (1) (a) of the RTI Act, 2005:- "Every public authority shall:- • Maintain all its records duly catalogued and indexed in a manner and the form which facilitates the right to information under the Act; and • ensure that all records that are appropriate to be computerized are, within a reasonable time and subject to availability of resources, computerized and connected through a network all over the country on different systems so that access to such records is facilitated."	On this recommendation the Administrative Reforms has sent letters to Public Authorities to comply this recommendation and most of the Public authorities have followed it.
2.	In earlier First to Thirteenth reports Commission had recommended the implementation the provisions of Section 4 (1) (b) of the RTI Act, 2005. But the information under this Act has not been published/ updated by the large number of	On this recommendation the Administrative Reforms has sent letters to Public Authorities to meet this

	public authorities. Hence, the Department of Administrative Reforms may take concrete steps to ensure that the provisions of section 4 (1) (b) of the RTI Act, 2005 are implemented in letter and spirit by all the public authorities under the State Govt.	recommendation and most of the Public authorities have followed it.
3.	From the First to Thirteenth Annual Reports, it was recommended that the Department of Administrative Reforms may take concrete steps for implementing the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005/ HPRTI Rules, 2006 for rightful propagation of the Act and the Rules by imparting trainings to APIOs, PIOs and Appellate Authorities. In view of large number of APIOs, PIOs and Appellate Authorities designated by the Rural Development Department, Education Department and other big departments in the state, more training programmes are required to be organized by HIPA.	The Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration Shimla, has intimated that they are continuously conducting training programmes and workshops for the PIOs, other officers of the State Government and imparting training to officials of various departments. HIPA has substantially increased the number of training programmes for the PIOs and APIOs.
4.	In the Seventh to Thirteenth Report, it was recommended that the Departments are not maintaining the record/ files as per the Office Manual, wherein, it is mandated to open subject-wise files, having noting and correspondence part separately on the file. Even records are not being classified as permanent and of periodical duration in a transparent manner. Maintenance of File Index	On this recommendation the Administrative Reforms has sent letters to Public Authorities to meet this recommendation and most of the Public authorities have followed it.

	Register and Guard File are not being ensured as per Office Manual which leads to a delay in providing the information to the information seeker and is a violation of the provisions of section 4(1)(a) and (b) of RTI Act, 2005.The departments be directed to ensure compliance of the Office Manual in this regard in a time bound manner.	
5.	In the earlier reports, the Commission had recommended the Training and Sensitization Programmes for the First Appellate Authorities of the Public Authorities and Heads of Departments of the Public Authorities.	The Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration Shimla, has conducted programmes for the First Appellate Authorities of the State Government
6.	In the Fourth to Thirteenth Annual Reports, the Department of Administrative Reforms was requested to finalise an appropriate scheme of periodic inspections in various offices to ensure that provisions of RTI Act, 2005 are being implemented effectively. Further, during the course of hearing of second appeals/ complaints, Commission has observed that most of the cases have been filed in the Commission against the First Appellate Authorities as in most of the cases First Appellate Authorities have not decided first appeals as per the provisions of section 19(6) of RTI Act, 2005 in the prescribed time period or passing written orders and have not decided the appeals on merit as per Rule 6(5) of HP RTI Rules, 2006 (Sixth Amendment). Hence, there	The Administrative Reforms Department has issued administrative instructions to all the public authorites in the state. However, more concrete steps need to be taken in this regard. Also, First Appellate Authorities need to dispose of first appeals efficiently which will reduce the filing of complaints and second appeals in the Commission. This will

	is dire need to inspect the RTI registers maintained by PIOs to ensure timely disposal of applications as well as the disposal of first appeals efficiently by the First Appellate Authorities. Such a step is likely to reduce the filing of complaints and 2nd appeals in the Commission. Consequently the Department of Administrative Reforms may issue instructions to all the departments that the provisions of RTI Act and Regulations may also be included as one of the components in the department's regular inspection schedules and it be a part of the general inspection of the field offices.	help to save precious time and money of information seekers.
7.	In the Sixth to Thirteenth report, it was recommended that as per provisions of section 2(j) of the RTI Act, 2005, the citizens have a right to inspect works being executed by public authorities. But there is no provision in HP RTI Rules, 2006 regarding charging of fee for such an inspection. These rules also do not prescribe any procedure regarding inspection of work by an applicant as envisaged in the aforesaid section of the Act. It is, therefore, again recommended that a suitable provision may be incorporated in HP RTI Rules, 2006 to enable the information seekers to inspect any work under execution by a Public Authority of the State Govt. on the basis of prescribed payment of fee.	On this recommendation the Administrative Reforms has taken the matter up with Law department to make necessary amendments in Rule 5 of HP RTI Rules, 2006 and same is under consideration with the Law department.
8.	During the course of various hearings at Commission level it has been observed that various Public Authorities have designated the PIO's who are not in the rank of officer level.	On this recommendation the Administrative Reforms has taken the matter up with

	For instance, Panchayati Raj Department have designated Panchayat Secretaries as PIO's who class-III employees are in official hierarchy and most of them are on Contract basis. Such designations of PIO's are in violation of Section 5 (1) of RTI Act, 2005 which requires that PIO should belong to an officer category. The relevant clause of the Act is reproduced as under: **Section – 5(1):-** "Every Public Authority shall, within one hundred days of the enactment of this Act, designate as many **officers as the CPIO or SPIO**, as the case may be, in all administrative units or offices under it as may be necessary to provide information to persons requesting for the information under this Act." The Commission therefore recommends that the State Govt. should direct all Public Authorities to designate PIOs who are at least class-II level officers and permanent employees of the Government so that they are able to access information from concerned quarters and who can also be held responsible for any omissions/commissions in dealing with RTI Act, 2005.	Panchayati Raj Department which in response has informed that there is no other officer/ official posted in the panchayat office other than Panchayat Secretary and further added that there is no provision in RTI Act, 2005 to appoint any officer/ official of one public authority as Public Information Officer of another public authority.

The above recommendations from sr. no. 6 to 8 are again reiterated. The other recommendations and observations are as under:

The Commission recommends that awareness programs on Right to Information Act, 2005 should be held covering the villages of state on priority basis so that the citizens residing in rural area will be well aware of provisions of RTI Act Right to Information Act, 2005.

The Commission has examined the reports received from the Public Authorities pertaining to the receipt of RTI applications from information seekers during the year 2018-19. It has been observed that out of a total of 64233 RTI applications filed by the information seekers during the year, requests were rejected by the PIOs concerned only in 515 cases and 2197 first appeals were filed during the year. The Commission received 63 complaints and 455 second appeals during 2018-19. The small number of first appeals filed by applicants and the total number of complaints and second appeals received in the Commission do indicate that the applicants were generally satisfied with the response of the PIOs in the State. While considering the complaints and appeals, it has, however been observed by the Commission that most of the complaints and appeals pertained to delay in receiving appropriate response from the PIOs. In a number of cases, the delay could be attributed to lack of awareness on the part of PIOs about various provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 and the Rules made there under. It was also observed in some cases that, the applicants appeared to be unaware of the scope of the RTI Act, 2005. Quite a large number of applicants/appellants expected the redressal of their grievances through their RTI applications and complaints/ appeals filed before the State Information Commission, whereas empowering citizens from the existing information/ record maintained by public authority is the essence of this act.