

സംസ്ഥാന തലത്തിലുള്ള ഓഫീസിലെ പബ്ലിക് ഇൻഫർമേഷൻ ഓഫീസറായാണ് സ്റ്റേറ്റ് പബ്ലിക് ഇൻഫർമേഷൻ ഓഫീസർ എന്ന് വിളിക്കുന്നതെന്നും ഫീൽഡ് ഓഫീസുകളിൽ അവർ സ്റ്റേറ്റ് എന്നു ചേർക്കാതെ വെറും പബ്ലിക് ഇൻഫർമേഷൻ ഓഫീസർ എന്നാണെന്നുമുള്ള തെറ്റ്യാരണ ചിലർക്കുണ്ട്. നിയമത്തിൽ സ്റ്റേറ്റ് പബ്ലിക് ഇൻഫർമേഷൻ ഓഫീസർ എന്നു മാത്രമേ പറയുന്നുള്ളൂ.

The SPIO had submitted that he was not the State Public Information Officer (SPIO) but only the Public Information Officer. That was the reason why the request delivered through post was not received. The Respondent was not clued up with the RTI Act. All the officials acting as information officers under the RTI Act in the State Government are known as State Public Information Officers (SPIO) and those in the Central Government are known as Central Public Information Officers (CPIO). It is sad that high-ranking officials in the public authorities are still not thorough with the provisions of the RTI Act, though it is almost five years since the Act came into force. The situation is all the more worse because most of the SPIOs in the public authorities have appeared before this Commission at least once and were directed to acquaint themselves thoroughly with the RTI Act; it being a piece of legislation that is getting stronger and stronger by the day and, the citizenry will be taking recourse to it to access information from public authorities which, in the normal course, would be inaccessible to them.

3. The copy of request forwarded by the Commission on 18-01-2010 was received in the public authority on 22-01-2010 and, the information was provided on 08-02-2010, as submitted by the SPIO. Though the Commission is not happy with what has happened in this case, it would take an extreme lenient view in the matter and caution the Respondent to be careful in future.

4. The complaint petition is disposed off accordingly, without prejudice to the Complainant's right to go on first appeal u/s 19(1), if he is not satisfied with the information, as provided by the SPIO.