

From

Secretary (AR) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

To

1. Special Private Secretary to
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, H.P.
2. All the Pr. PS/Sr. Spl.PS/Spl. PS/Sr.PS/PS to
Hon'ble Cabinet Ministers, Himachal Pradesh.

Dated: Shimla-2, the 1st July, 2024

Subject:-

To designate First Appellate Authority's (FAA'S) and Public Information Officers'(PIOs) in Minister's offices- implementation of RTI ACT/Rules thereof.

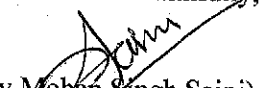
Madam/Sir,

I am directed to invite your kind attention to the subject cited above and to say that this issue has been engaging the attention of this department for so long. As the services being provided under RTI Act is one of the most appreciated services provided to the general public by the State Government and it is need of hour that maximum government offices be linked with services provided under RTI Act/ Rules. It has also come to the notice that in some cases the field offices are providing the RTI information on behalf of Ministers.

Now it has been considered that Ministers offices be also linked with RTI portal by designating First Appellate Authority (FAA) and Public Information Officer in their respective offices. Even the Central Information Commission vide its order dated 12-3-2016 in Appeal No. CIC/SA/A/2015/000435- Hemant Dhage, Ahmednagar Vs Department of Legal Affairs, Government of India declared the Ministers in the Union Government and all State Governments as 'public authorities' under 2(h) Section of RTI Act, 2005.

In view of the section 5(I) of RTI Act, 2005 which provides *that every public authority shall within one hundred days of the enactment of this Act, designate as many officers as the Central Public Information Officers or State Public Information Officers, 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.*, it is hereby requested to designate First Appellate Authorities (FAAs) and Public Information Officers (PIOs) in Minister's offices as per the hierarchy of staff after taking prior approval of the concerned Ministers. The information of so designated officer be also provided to this department so that they can be linked/mapped with RTI Online Portal.

Yours faithfully,


(Shiv Mohan Singh Saini)
Joint Secretary (AR) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Tel. No.0177-2622498/2880400

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