

Dist Agriculture

No. 5/18/2015-1AR
Government of Haryana
Administrative Reforms Department

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25/5/15

To

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27/5/15

Dated Chandigarh the 22.05.2015

(14)

- (i) All the Administrative Secretaries
(ii) All the Heads of Departments.
(iii) Registrar, Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh
(iv) Commissioners of Division in Haryana.
(v) All Deputy Commissioners and Sub Divisional Officers (Civil), in Haryana.
(vi) All Chief Administrators and Managing Directors of Boards and Corporations in Haryana.

Subject: - Designation of SPIOs and functioning of FAAs by public authorities under RTI Act, 2005.

A-R
Sir/Madam

I am directed to refer to the subject noted above and to say that the Chief Information Commissioner has brought to the notice of Govt. that only a handful of departments have positioned senior officers as SPIOs. Majority of the public authorities have designated junior level officers to discharge the responsibilities of SPIOs. Some of the SPIOs are non-gazetted officials with limited experience and exposure to the working of the public authority. This tendency of the public authorities to appoint relatively junior officials as SPIOs not only dilutes the effectiveness of the RTI Act but also creates extra work for the public authorities in terms of defending themselves before the First Appellate Authorities and the State Information Commission as well as creates dissatisfaction among the information seekers. The significant public authorities who have appointed the junior level officer are HUDA, Education Department including Higher, Secondary and Elementary Education, Excise & Taxation Department, Transport, Social Justice and Empowerment, Women and Child Development, Urban Local Bodies and Revenue & Disaster Management. The Haryana Civil Secretariat is no exception. Similar is the situation in case of Boards/Corporations of the State.

It has also been observed that the office of First Appellate Authority in many public authorities is non-functional. They do not dispose of the appeals, which increases the miseries of the citizens who have been running from pillar to post to deal with bureaucracy in the public authority and ultimately use RTI as a tool to get information or to expose inefficiency in the working of the public authority and to contain corruption.

In view of the above, you are requested to undertake a review and ensure that senior officers are designated as SPIOs and FAAs.

Yours faithfully

Tag Rana
27/5/15
Superintendent (AR)

for Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana
Administrative Reforms department