

## REPORT OF VISIT TO MON DISTRICT

### Rev. Dr. Pongsing Konyak, SIC

The visit to Mon district during January 5 – 10, 2010 was a great success due to cooperation shown by the district administration like Deputy Commissioner, Mon; ADC Tizit; and ADC Aboi. The purpose of the Commission visit was for monitoring the implementation of the RTI Act 2005 at district and sub-divisional levels. I participated at the Seminar on RTI organized by Tizit Area Students' Union. The salient features of RTI were explained to the participants and also some RTI literatures were distributed. It was made clear that seeking information from Public Authorities is the right of every citizen of India. However, the citizens should follow the prescribed procedures for seeking information. The copies of RTI Act 2005 were given to Heads of departments because none of them had ever seen the Act. Few government officers, large group of students, church leaders, village council members, VDB members, GBs, representatives of NGOs were present. Altogether, there were 105 participants. The next interaction on RTI was held with KBCM Youth. About 100 youth members were present. They were given literatures on RTI and encouraged them to read the same for their education. The next meeting was held at Aboi under the leadership of ADC. The interaction was attended by few government officers, DBs, GBs, members of VDBs and VCs; large group of NGO leaders like KU, KNSK, Youth organization, Pastors and Deacons of various churches, and few representatives of central government agencies at Aboi. The interaction was quite effective and people were keen to know about RTI. They were given copies of RTI Act and other RTI literatures for self education. Altogether there were 75 members present.

#### **Few observations:**

1. Most government officers/employees were not available in their posting places except administrative officers.
2. Both government servants as well as public are not at all aware of RTI Act. Few who have heard about RTI also do not know the procedure for seeking information. In short, the awareness at sub-divisional level is very poor.
3. Citizens expressed that they are still kept in the dark about RTI and asked who is responsible to provide public education.
4. RTI literatures are not available.
5. APIOs are not designated in most of the departments at subdivisions. Only two APIOs were present at Tizit while only one APIO was present at Aboi.
6. Designation of APIOs and their training are the need of the hour.

APIOs Status at Sub-divisions  
Rev. Dr, Pongsing Konyak

APIOs are not designated in most of the departments at subdivisions. I have visited five Sub-divisions as mentioned below:

Aboi Sub-division	1
Tizit	3
Naginimora	1
Noklak	Nil
Samator	2