

Commission Visits to Districts and Observation

By: Rev. Dr. Pongsing

Rev. Dr. Pongsing Konyak, State Information Commission had visited Mon and Longleng districts during November 3 – 6, 2009. The purpose of this visit was to monitor and take stock of the implantation of RTI Act at the district level.

Interaction at Mon

The SIC had a meeting with heads of offices and PIOs/APIOs/AAs at Mon on November 4, 2009. About 40 officers were present at Mon. The Deputy Commissioners expressed that many officers are not regularly staying in their posting places. He said that those who failed to attend the meeting on that day will be reported definitely to the Chief Secretary and CIC. The State Information Commissioner straight away picked up the business with the officer in order to assess how the RTI Act is being implemented in Mon district without spending time talking about various provisions of the Act. Few observations are listed below:

- Very few officers have seen the RTI Act 2005 and only few of them had read the same.
- Only One AA was present.
- Only 8 PIOs were present out of over 40 PIOs and only 3 of them had training.
- Only 8 APIOs were present and none of them had training.
- Sensitization of government departments on RTI is almost non-existent.
- RTI literatures are not available in the districts.
- No request for information from citizens due to lack of awareness.
- Never attempted to prepare Annual Report
- None of the NGOs working on RTI.
- General awareness level both in the government departments as well as civil society level is very low.
- Public Sensitization program by government is still kept in cold storage. Therefore, Citizens are not aware of their right and how it should be utilized.
- Local level training on RTI is the need of the hour both for Public Authorities and general public.
- A massive awareness program is needed at the district as well as subdivision levels.

- There is no seriousness on the part of government departments about RTI.
- List of PIOs/APIOs/AA are not updated regularly
- APIOs are not designated at the sub-divisional level in most of the departments.
- The Deputy Commissioner has been quite efficient in organizing RTI related meetings.

Stopover at Naginimora:

The State Information Commissioner also stopover at Naginimora to have a brief interaction with the ADC and heads of departments. Altogether, 15 departments attended the meeting on November 5, 2009. Here everybody is totally ignorant about RTI Act 2005. Therefore, the SIC told them that we shall organize a massive awareness program at Naginimora involving all the govt officers, Town Council, institutions, VDBs, VECs, Chuech leaders, students organization , and Women organization in Naginimora area.

Visit to Longleng :

Rev. Dr. Pongsing Konyak, State Information Commission had visited Longleng district during November 5 – 6, 2009. The SIC had a meeting with heads of offices and PIOs/APIOs/AAs on November 6, 2009. About 30 officers were present. The State Information Commissioner straight away pickup the business with the officer to find out how the RTI Act is being implemented in Longleng district without spending time talking about various provisions of the Act. The following are our observation and findings:

- Very few officers have seen the RTI Act 2005 and only few of them had read the same.
- Only 2 AAs were present.
- Only 16 PIOs were present out of over 42 PIOs and only 2 of them had training.
- Only 13 APIOs were present and only one had training.
- Sensitization of government departments on RTI is almost non-existent.
- RTI literatures are not available in the districts.
- Only two PIOs had request for information from citizens.
- Never attempted to prepare Annual Report
- None of the NGOs working on RTI.

- General awareness level both in the government departments as well as civil society level is very low.
- Public Sensitization program by government is still kept in cold storage
- Local level training on RTI is the need of the hour both for Public Authorities and general public.
- A massive awareness program is needed at the district as well as subdivision levels.
- There is no seriousness on the part of government departments about RTI.
- List of PIOs/APIOs/AA are not updated regularly
- APIOs are not designated at the sub-divisional level in most of the departments.
- Video conferencing equipments are there but no Engineers had come to fix up the equipments.
- Deputy Commissioners is found quite active in coordinating all the departments for RTI meetings.