

Meeting the Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Planning & Human Resources Management

The Chief Information Commissioner along with all State Information Commissioners made a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Planning & Human Resources Management on 15.07.2021 and briefed him about the RTI Act and its implementation in the State. The achievements of the Commission with regard to addressing the grievances of the petitioners were explained to him.

The brief note handed over on the occasion covered the following:-

- i) The receipt of petitions in the Commission has been increasing year after year. The disposal of petitions which was averaging about 6500 per year has risen to about 9600 in 2020 and this has helped to reduce the pendency to some extent. The achievement in 2021 is expected to rise to 13000. The objective is to at least dispose of about 18000 petitions in a year. From May 2020 onwards, it has been seen to it that the onset of COVID does not hinder the disposals of petitions by adopting the VIRTUAL MODE for enquiries, with Tamil Nadu being the first state in India to switch over to the new mode. In addition, video conferencing is also being done with the District Collectors to ensure quicker disposal.
- ii) Digitisation has been specially focused upon and all communication with Government Departments is being done only through e-mail thereby reducing time delay caused by postal communications and also bringing about a financial savings, by avoiding postal charges. An Office Automation Project has been sanctioned by the Government to be implemented through the National Informatics Centre for the Tamil Nadu Information Commission.

Orders sanctioning Rs.9,87,045/- for the project were issued in G.O. (Ms) No.65, Human Resources Management (AR-III) Department dated:01.07.2021. The project will enable synchronization of the online filing of appeals with the e-service centers and also enable (a) tracking of RTI petitions by petitioners (b) re-designing of the Information Commission's website and help to create a paperless transaction of business within the Commission.