

No.35-5/2006-O&M/PG Cell  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation  
Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi  
Dated the June, 2006

To

(All Heads of Attached & Subordinate Offices, PSUs,  
Autonomous Bodies and National Level Cooperative  
Organisations by name as per list enclosed)

**Subject: Interpretation of certain provisions of the Right to Information Act,  
2005 – clarifications reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to say that in connection with the interpretation of certain provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005 several issues were placed before the Department of Personnel & Training for their advice in respect of which the said Department has clarified the position as follows:

**1. Issue raised by DAC**

The word "opinion" which finds a mention in the definition of 'information' under Section 2(f) needs clarification/modification as the applicants seek views/opinion etc. of the Department on the matters which have appeared in the Press, etc. but in respect of which there is no material in writing is available on the official records of the Department.

**Clarification given by DOP&T**

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has interpreted the word 'opinion' as opinion available in writing and available in the official records of a public authority and as such can be furnished to an applicant on request under the Act. The interpretation of the Department appears to be agreeable. 'Information' means any material in any form held or accessible by a Public Authority.

**2. Issue raised by DAC**

Whether the right to seek explanation/justification for taking or not taking certain action is covered under the definition of "information" given under Section 2(f) of the Act.

**Clarification given by DOP&T**

The definition of "information" given under Section 2(f) of the Act does not include the word explanation/justification.

2. All the Public Authorities under the administrative control of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation are accordingly advised to keep the aforesaid clarifications in view while handling the applications received for access to information under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Yours faithfully,



(K.D. Upreti)

Dy. Secretary to the Govt. of India

Copy to:

1. All the Divisional Heads under DAC.(By name)
2. Shri Naved Masood, Joint Secretary & Appellate Officer, DAC.
3. Shri Ashish Bahuguna, Joint Secretary & Link Appellate Officer, DAC
4. Shri Amit Jha, Director & CPIO, DAC.
5. Shri Manoj Kumar Pandey, Director & Link CPIO, DAC.
6. Shri K.D. Upreti, DS(Pers.), Administration Division, DAC.
7. Shri Ram Karan, DS(GA), Administration Division, DAC
8. Shri K.G. Radhakrishnan, Addl. Commissioner(Policy), P&P Division, DAC
9. Shri Sunil Saran, DS(PC), P&P Division, DAC
10. Shri S.K. Jain, DS(P&C), P&P Division, DAC
11. Shri Kuntal Sen Sharma, DS(KS), P&P Division, DAC
12. Shri Harish Chander, Sr. Analyst(O&M)
13. Shri D. R. Miglani, DO(MM), Macro Management Division, DAC.
14. SO(RTI Cell)
15. Sr. Tech. Director(NIC-DAC) It is requested that this letter may be displayed on the RTI page of the Department's main website as well as on INTRADAC.

Copy also forwarded for information to Shri T. Jacob, Joint Secretary(RTI), Department of Personnel & Training with reference to that Department's U.O. Note No.2835/CR/06-IR dated 24.4.2006.



(K.D. Upreti)

Dy. Secretary to the Govt. of India