

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION Ltd.,
O/O EIC/HRD. (RTI Cell)

To

1. ALL APPELLATE AUTHORITIES Cum EIC's/CE's,PSPCL,
2. All PIO's Cum Dy.CE's all SE's/PSPCL,
3. All APIO;s Cum Addl.SE's,all Dy.Secy's,
4. All Senior Xen's,AEE's,PSPCL.

Memo No. 53711/55061 G-18/2691

Dated: 13-8-12

Subject: Clarification regarding format in which the 'information' should be supplied under the RTI Act,2005,

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It has been observed that some people under the Right to Information Act, 2005 request the Public Information Officers (PIO) to cull out information from some documents (s) and give such extracted information to them. In some cases, the applicants expect the PIO to give information in some particular proforma devised by them on the plea that sub section (9) of Section 7 provides that information shall ordinarily be provided in the form in which it is sought. It need be noted that the sub-section simply means that if the information is sought in the form of photocopy, it shall be provided in the form of photocopy and if is sought in the form of a floppy, it shall be provided in that form subject to the conditions given in the Act etc. it does not means that the PIO shall re-shape the information.

What does "Information" mean?

According to section 2(1) of the Act "Information" means any material in any form. A citizen under the Act has a right to get 'material' from a public authority which is held by or under the control of that public authority. The right includes inspection of work,documents,records,taking notes,extracts or certified copies of documents or records taking certified samples of material,taking information in the form of diskettes,floppies, tapes video cassettes or in any other electronic mode or through printouts where such information is stored in a computer or in any other device. Careful reading of the definition of information and right to information makes it clear that a

citizen has a right to get the material, inspect the material, take notes from the material, take extracts or certified copies of the material, take samples of the material, take the material in the form of diskettes etc. The PIO is required to supply such material to the citizen who seeks it. The Act, however, does not require the public Information Officer to deduce some conclusion from the material and supply the 'conclusion' so deduced to the applicant. The PIO is required to supply the 'material' in the form as held by the Public authority and is not required to do research on behalf of the citizen to deduce anything from the material and then supply it to him.

It is further clarified that only such information is required to be supplied under the Act which already exists and is held by the public authority. It is not required under the Act to create information or to interpret information, or to solve the problems raised by the applicants, or to furnish replies to hypothetical questions.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.


Nodal Officer Cum Dy Secy.
RTI Cell, PSPCB, Patiala.