

1.12 Programmes to advance understanding of RTI (Section 26):-

1. A workshop was conducted on RTI matters in collaboration with EG & IT Division on 27th July 2021 at South Block, New Delhi.
2. The RTI workshop comprised the following:-
 - a) Welcome remarks by Secretary (East)
 - b) Keynote address by Hon'ble MOS (Ms Meenakshi Lekhi)
 - c) Concluding remarks by JS(AD)
 - d) Interactive session on RTI Act, 2005 with Shri Pabitra Roychoudhary, RTI Counsel
 - e) A session with Shri Rahul Bansal, a speaker from RTI PMU, DoP&T on handling of RTI applications and appeals through online RTI web portal
3. The welcome remarks for the Workshop were given by Secretary (East). In her speech, she inter alia, gave an overview of the Ministry in reference to RTI requirements and outlined the duties of CPIOs as Government servants.
4. She was followed by Hon'ble MOS, Ms Meenakshi Lekhi, who gave keynote address to all participants. In her speech, she, inter alia, gave a perspective of the Government with reference to the RTI Act.
5. She was followed by JS(AD), who gave his concluding remarks on the proceedings.
6. The workshop was well attended by 417 participants (CPIOs and FAAs) from Headquarters as well as from Missions abroad. It has been conveyed by EG & IT Division that this is the second largest participation in a meeting that has been handled by them.
7. During interactive session with Shri Pabitra Roychoudhary, RTI Counsel, he first gave an idea about the RTI Act and its application in the replies to be given by the CPIOs and FAAs of the Ministry. Participants showed keen interest and more than 20 participants interacted with him regarding their specific queries.
8. During the online RTI portal session, Shri Rahul Bansal, RTI-PMU, DoP&T gave an idea about the handling of the RTI portal for Nodal CPIO, CPIO and FAA. The participants benefited from the session through the working knowledge of their respective accounts on the portal.