

## **RTI ACT A TOOL FOR PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND PROVIDE GOOD GOVERNANCE-GURUDAS PILARNEKAR**

Panaji, December 14, 2018  
Agrahayana 23, 1940

Shri Gurudas Pilarnekar, Director, Department of Information and Publicity has said that Right to Information Act is an effective tool to curb corruption and bring in transparency and accountability to deliver good governance and prompt services to the people. He was speaking after inaugurating a half day workshop on RTI Act conducted by Department of Information and Publicity at Mapusa today.

Shri Pilarnekar highlighted the importance of RTI Act to gain access to seek information under RTI. He said in the past the Department of Information and Publicity had conducted workshop on RTI to enlighten the citizens and PIO's above the RTI Act and to ensure its effective implementation. Speaking further Shri Pilarnekar felt that government employees should adhere to honesty, sincerity while discharging their duties and accordingly follow the rules and regulations while serving the masses.

Smt Sima Fernandes, Assistant Director, GIPARD and Shri Roland Martins, Coordinator, Goa CAN were the resource persons for the workshop. The workshop was attended by elected representatives of Local self government bodies such as Municipality and Village Panchayat, Consumer clubs, consumer forums and general public from North Goa District

Smt.Sima Fernandes, who spoke on RTI Act, an overview enlightened the participants of the workshop on various aspects of RTI Act. She said, The Right to Information is a fundamental Human Right which helps in tackling corruption and promote transparency .She explained the ways to seek information under RTI Act. Information she said can be sought even about the health condition of any individual if it is in the interest of the public. Information, she said can be provided only if it is on record.

Shri Roland Martins, Goa CAN Coordinator also spoke on RTI Act 2005, a tool for transparency and accountability said that Transparency and accountability are the two sides of same coin, if we ourselves are not transparent, it will be very difficult to get society to be transparent.

He said that there will be a huge transformation in implementation of the right to information Act, if every citizen learn to read their right and learn to write

the complaints. He further said RTI can be of no use unless we decide and realise that these two words i.e. Right and Information are very important .He further said Let us not violate the act, let us not overburden the Public Information officers ,Let us first build the culture of getting Information free he asserted

Shri Prakash Naik, Information Officer welcomed the guest and participants at the workshop informed that a similar workshop will be held in South Goa at Conference hall, Mathany Saldanha Collectorate Complex, Margao on December 20, 2018. He said the primary objective of conducting the workshops is to empower the citizens to promote transparency and accountability in the working of the government and to make them aware of rules.

Shri Shyam Gaonkar, Information Assistant compered the programme and later proposed the vote of thanks

**DI/NB/GPP/PN/AF/2018/1121**