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Subject: Orissa SIC ... a quasi-judicial body or a funding agency?

Dear Sir,

I write to you to express my disappointment in the actions of the Orissa State Information Commission. I am given to believe that the Orissa Information Commission during the past year turned itself into a funding agency of typical sort, engaged in collection of money from different sources and distribution of the same in the form of grant-in-aid to their pet agencies and NGOs in the name of awareness campaign.

While I agree that taking the RTI to the masses is important and one of the key measures in the success of the act, it is simply not the SIC's place or job to be a funding agency for awareness campaigns. As a quasi-judicial body it is important that the commission maintain its distance and independence from such implementations of the act. The law makers, emphasising the importance of this separation, have entrusted the Central Govt. or a State Government as the case may be to conduct all sorts of awareness and sensitisation programmes to spread the message of RTI among the public at large.

It is important that the State Commission not get bogged down in the financial deals and petty organizational miscellany and lost its basic character as a quasi-judicial body to dispense justice to the complainants and appellants, and take on the mere role of a fund-raiser and a fund-giver. It is highly disappointing to see the Commission that has been entrusted with such an important role in shaping the future of Orissa has not only be found wanting but has failed in fulfilling its obligations as required by the Act.

I hope the SIC sees its follies and redeems itself in the eyes of the people.

Thank you.

Regards,

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