

MCF

- Worked with over 18 organizations in the past 2 years
- Worked with over 4000 children
- Over 500 applications filed in the first year, with remarkable results
- Baseline surveys are done
- Local workshops have started
- Facilitator workshop done
- Project not particularly affected in the rains/floods

2010-11 partners

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| • Chesta | Nainital |
| • Sudha | Almora |
| • Simar | Bageshwar |
| • Arpan | Pithoragarh |
| • Kagas | Champawat |
| • Naina Gramin Seva Samiti | Udhamdham Singh Nagar |
| • Mount Valley | Tehri |
| • HENSR | Uttarkashi |
| • SEAD | Pauri |
| • SBMA/Gairsain | Chamoli |
| • Grass | Rudrparyag |
| • PDI | Haridwar |
| • Society for Environment and Development | Dehradun |
| • Horrawalla | Dehradun |

(ones in BOLD are new this year)

From,

Devvrat Verma S/o Suresh Chandra Verma
Vill:- Horrawala, Sahaspur
Ddun, Uttarakhand

To,

Public Information Officer
Irrigation Department
Vikasnagar, Ddun

Sub:- Information under Right to Information Act 2005, Section of law- 6(1)

Sir,

Please provide following information regarding pipelines for Rajauli- Horrawala Canal.

1. Till when, pipes were kept in the village for the construction work?
2. When the construction work of laying pipelines under the ground will start?
3. When the work will be complete?
4. What is the agency/contractor name who is responsible for construction work?
5. Who is responsible if work is not done in time? What actions can be taken against him?
6. What are the arrangements done for protection of people?
7. Please provide daily progress report.

I am submitting the application with a stamp paper of Rs 10/- as application fee.

Name of applicant- Devvrat Verma

Date of application- 4/1/2009

Response from PIO

1. First pipe lots were received in May, 2008 & last lot was received in September, 2008.
2. Construction work of laying pipes has started from first week of February, 2009.
3. Construction work will be finished at the end of the month February, 2009.
4. The construction work is running by the contractor, Mr. Vijay Pal Singh, Vill- Haripur, Selaqui, Ddun.
5. Pipes were received in the rainy season. There is unmetallized road of 2 km. from main road to pipe laying place. In rainy season, it is not possible to work. A farmer Mr. Kalam Singh also objected to unload the pipes in his field. In January, 2009 work has started after his permission. 95 % of pipes have reached near the work place. So, it is cleared that delay was not caused by any of the officer or worker.
6. Pipes unloaded at the sides of the road have been shifted from there.

The pipes were shifted as soon as the RTI application reached the office.

OB Van in Horrawala

- Overhead Broadcasting van
- Promised by R S Tolia before retiring
- Van sponsored by the Information Commission and will travel village to village providing an option for folks to ask questions and educate themselves
- Van inaugurated in Horrawala with the MCF supported Bal Panchayat
- This particular group is not financially supported by us – they just keep up the activities because the kids are interested

OB Van in Horrawala

- **Neha Sharma** – Requested information on who the PIO officer of the Village was?
- **Commission Answered** – The Village Pradhan and the panchayat secretary were PIOs for the village. The Village Panchayat must have an Information Board that detailed who was the PIO officer in the village. The CIC added if their village did not have an information board, the children should file a complaint immediately. (There was no board but the children did not want to register a complaint against their pradhan – the MCF team told the children to request the pradhan to place the board at the earliest.)

OB Van in Horrawala

- **Rohit asked** – If it wasn't known who the departmental PIO officer was then where was the application to be sent?
- **Commission Answered** – That the application should be addressed to “Public Information Officer” followed by the name of the departments from where the information is sought, along with the full address of the department and it would be forwarded to the concerned PIO officer. Alternatively the application could be sent to the District Collector or the Chief Development Officer.

OB Van in Horrawala

- **Swati Rawat asked** – What steps need to be taken if the children were harassed and threatened after filing an application?
- **Commission Answered** – The right to information is a constitutional right. No one should be harassed or threatened. But in case someone tried, a complaint should be filed with the Information Commission and the DIG of Police. Accordingly the closest police station would be informed.

OB Van in Horrawala

- **Ittakhaab Aalam asked** – What the process was for filing of a second appeal. Had a new format been created?
- **Commission Answered**– A second appeal could be filed within 90 days of the first appeal. It should be sent in the appropriate format. There should be 3 copies of the appeal and each should be self attested

OB Van in Horrawala

- **Preeti Rawat asked** – Whose responsibility it was to place the information board in different departments?
- **Commission Answered** – It is the duty of each department to place the Information board where it could be seen, with details of who the PIO officer was. If a board was not placed then a complaint should be filed.

OB Van in Horrawala

- **Sumit Kumar asked** – What the government was doing to generate awareness about the RTI act in the rural areas.
- **Commission Answered** – It is the duty of the government to generate awareness about the Act, however, the commission had stepped in to generate awareness about the Act. The OB Van was one such step. Apart from this the print media and electronic media were being used to generate awareness as well.

OB Van in Horrawala

- **Devvrat Sharma asked** – Once an application was filed could the department, insist that the applicant had to visit the office in person on a working day to collect the information?
- **Commission Answered** – There was an added facility that the applicant could go in person and view the information at the office concerned but no one could force the applicant to visit the concerned department to collect their information. It was the duty of the PIO officer to send the information to the applicant.

OB Van in Horrawala

- **Kaushlaish asked** – If an application was transferred by the department, in how many days should the response reach the applicant?
- **Commission Answered**– The reply should come within 30 days only 5 days could be added in case of transfer of the application. If the application was transferred though section 6 (3) the applicant should also be informed of the said transfer. If the applicant is not informed it could result in a penalty.

OB Van in Horrawala

- **Sudhir Bhatt asked**– How would the public know that the second appeal had to be sent in a particular format. He had sent his second appeal self attested and in 3 copies and it was returned to him.
- **Commission Answered**– If the second appeal was in 3 copies it should not be returned. (Rajesh Naithani from the information commission said that the government had created a format but the commission was still accepting applications sent without the format and if the second appeal had been returned then it was cause for a complaint – Sudhir was told by the commission support staff to resend the second appeal)

OB Van in Horrawala

- **Monika asked** – If data of the whole state was requested often the application was transferred to several district level departments. In that case how many days would the reply be received in?
- **Commission Answered** – The time limit was 30 days. The state office should have the information. The information could come separately also and could be collated and sent.

OB Van in Horrawala

- **Om Prakash Singh Asked** – More than 6 deaths of RTI activist had been reported. What was the commission doing to prevent it?
- **Commission Answered** - In case of harassment a written complaint should be sent to the SSP and the DIG of that district. Also since the case would be “an attempt on life” an appeal should be filed which would be addressed within 48 hours.

OB Van in Horrawala

- **Deepika Asked**— On filing an application if the office had shifted and the PIO officer had been transferred, what should the procedure be? Would it be necessary for the applicant to visit the office to collect the information?
- **Commission Answered**— The applicant cannot be forced to go to any office. The PIO is an officers position in the government and is not dependent on any person. So if a person was transferred someone would replace him and therefore be the PIO. In Deepika's case a complaint was to be filed. (The Officer from the commission, Saurabh, looked at Deepika's papers there itself and helped her write a complaint. He also noted down the issue).