

# TN's RTI panel yet to file first annual report

Gangadhar S Patil | ENS  
Chennai, June 29

TAMIL Nadu State Information Commission has not filed its annual report ever since RTI Act 2005 came into force owing to unavailability of data and lack of manpower, said S Ramakrishnan IAS, State Chief Information Commissioner (CIC).

An annual report is a comprehensive review of implementation of the RTI Act in any State. Information such as requests to each public authority, cases where applicants were denied information, appeals referred to the commission, penalty imposed for violation and other details collected from every government department for the preparation of annual report. The CIC said that the majority of the departments have not provided the required data yet thus resulting in a delay in the preparation of annual report. There are about 125 government departments.

Sources in the commission

told *Express* that there was only around 30 staff as against the requirement of 60 to 65.

"I have told the government that I will give blank annual report if you don't give me data," said the CIC, attributing the mess to the unawareness in departments to classify RTI re-

quests separately and maintain a different register for applications filed under RTI. A number of departments have mixed various applications. As a result, scores of important data are missing, and in some incorrect data

## CIC SPEAK

The CIC said most of the departments have not provided the required data yet, which resulted in a delay in the preparation of annual report. There are about 125 government departments

was provided.

The commission would file its first annual report next year, the CIC said. Outlining the significance of annual report, Madhav Vishnubhatt, an RTI activist from Chennai, said it was instrumental for analysing the implementation of the RTI Act. "If we don't have data, we don't know where we are heading towards... we don't know which department needs training or any other assistance," said Madhav.