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Third Party RTI Audit Summary Report of

Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)

In accordance with the directives of the Central Information Commissioner (CIC) and the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) outlined in OM No. 1/6/2011-IR dated 15.04.2013 and OM No. 1/34/2013-IR dated 30.06.2016, every Public Authority is required to conduct an annual third-party audit of its proactive disclosure package. This audit must be carried out by the designated training institutes associated with each Public Authority and subsequently submitted to the Central Information Commission.

The Indian Rubber Materials Research Institute conducted a Third-Party Audit of the Proactive Disclosure of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) under the RTI Act, 2005 from 03 to 05 June, 2025. This assessment followed the Guidelines on suo motu disclosure under Section 4 of the RTI Act issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT). The audit adhered to the Standard Operating Procedure outlined for third-party audits on suo motu disclosures (Para 4.4 & 4.5 of DoPT's OM No. 1/6/2011-IR dated 15.04.2013 & Para 6 of DoPT's OM No. 1/34/2013-IR dated 30.06.2016).

Objectives of the Audit:

The audit aimed to **evaluate compliance** with the Guidelines on suo motu disclosure under **Section 4** of the **RTI Act** and assess the **effectiveness of its implementation and control mechanisms**. Specifically, the evaluation examined the **Self-Appraisal Report of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) for 2024-25** and its official website (https://www.nrl.co.in/) to ensure adherence to prescribed guidelines for **Central Government Ministries & Departments**, including:

- Expanding suo motu disclosure under Section 4.
- Guidelines for digital publication of proactive disclosures.
- Detailed disclosure compliance with Sections 4(1)(b)(iii), 4(1)(b)(iv), 4(1)(b)(xi), and 4(1)(b)(xiv).
- Establishment of a structured compliance mechanism for proactive disclosure under the RTI Act, 2005.

Key Parameters Assessed During the Audit:

- 1. Organization and Functions
- 2. Budget and Programme
- 3. Publicity and Public Interface
- 4. E-Governance
- 5. Prescribed Information Disclosure
- 6. Proactive Information Disclosure (Self-Initiated)

This audit plays a crucial role in enhancing transparency, accountability, and public accessibility of information, ensuring that proactive disclosures align with government-mandated guidelines.

Key Findings and Priority Recommendations

We commend the **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** for its commitment to transparency by making essential information accessible on its website. However, the audit has highlighted areas that require **greater clarity and comprehensive disclosure**, including:

- 1. Enhancing the prominence of information under **Section 4(b) of the RTI Act**.
- 2. Providing detailed historical insights into the department's **formation**, **leadership** changes, and **committees/commissions** constituted over time. Additionally, information regarding the **channels** of **supervision** and accountability should be included.

- 3. Disclosing comprehensive details regarding Boards, Councils, Committees, and other governing bodies of the Public Authority.
- 4. Publishing clear work allocation and job descriptions for each functionary.
- 5. Outlining the norms governing the discharge of duties for various functionaries, wherever feasible.
- 6. Conducting regular programs to promote awareness and understanding of the RTI Act.
- 7. Publishing a **complete directory** of officers and employees, including contact details, under the RTI section.
- 8. Regularly updating and publishing monthly remuneration and compensation details of employees—at least once every six months.
- 9. Making available information regarding **CAG and PAC reports**, along with action taken on parliamentary submissions (excluding matters related to national security).
- 10. Expanding details under the Citizen's Charter, Result Framework Document (RFD), and six-monthly performance reports.
- 11. Disclosing details of domestic and foreign official visits, categorized under the Public Authority's centers.
- 12. Clearly displaying the last update date for each webpage in DD/MM/YY format.
- 13. Ensuring **suo-motu disclosures** are easily accessible through a dedicated **RTI heading or linked section**.
- 14. Regularly updating the website and implementing an **efficient search engine** to enhance information retrieval for citizens.

IRMRI would like to share positive feedback that in future all the required information/urls/links may be posted on website to meet the Transparency Audit Metrix.

Dr. Kasilingam Rajkumar (Director)

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