

MGVCL hails RTI applicant

Tushar Tere | TNN

Vadodara: A right to information (RTI) activist has received an unprecedented and surprising laudatory gesture from Madhya Gujarat Vij Company Ltd (MGVCL).

Vipul Patel, who has been demanding loads of information from MGVCL under the RTI Act, has been handed over an appreciation letter by the power company instead of being hostile to him. The power company has also asked Patel to inform them about irregularities. The move has come as a surprise to even Patel.

"Normally, public offices are not comfortable with those seeking information under the RTI Act. Activists are seen as a nuisance. It surprised me when MGVCL praised my efforts," said Patel, who runs Aastha Charitable Trust. "I will continue exposing ir-

regularities," Patel added. MGVCL in its letter to Patel has stated, "The activity done by you to obtain information under the RTI Act from the public utilities including MGVCL is definitely appreciable."



Vipul Patel

also exposed irregularities in the tendering work and lack of maintenance of equipment.

The letter written by MGVCL chief engineer, public information officer M N Patel, further stated, "If you notice any such irregularities, you may

please intimate this office for taking further necessary action by MGVCL."

"I had asked for permission to monitor the working of MGVCL as there were many irregularities in their project works. I even had a meeting with the MGVCL officials over the monitoring issue following which they wrote this letter to me," Patel stated. "I have written to the President of India asking his opinion on the efforts I have put it. He forwarded my letter to the ministry of personnel and notified me."

MGVCL has also clarified that its management gives due weightage to the complaints regarding irregularities committed by its staff at any level and investigates the matters thoroughly. The management takes disciplinary action as per the provisions of MGVCL if the irregularity is confirmed, the letter stated.

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