

THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

OBLIGATIONS OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

INFORMATION HAND BOOK

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UNDER SECTION 4(1) (B) OF RTI Act, 2005

INTRODUCTION

RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT AND ITS KEY OBJECTIVES

About Right to Information

This Act may be called the Right to Information Act, 2005.

1. When does it come into force?

It comes into force on the 12th October, 2005 (120th day of its enactment on 15th June, 2005). Some provisions have come into force with immediate effect viz. obligations of public authorities [S.4(1)], designation of Public Information Officers and Assistant Public Information Officers [S.5(1) and 5(2)], constitution of Central Information Commission (S.12 and 13), constitution of State Information Commission (S.15 and 16), non-applicability of the Act to Intelligence and Security Organizations (S.24) and power to make rules to carry out the provisions of the Act (S.27 and 28).

2. Who is covered?

The Act extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir. [S.(12)]

3. What does information mean?

Information means any material in any form including records, documents, memos, e-mails, opinions, advices, press releases, circulars, orders, logbooks, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models, data material held in any electronic form and information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any other law for the time being in force but does not include "file notings" [S.2(f)].

4. What does Right to Information mean?

It includes the right to -

1. Inspect works, documents, records.
2. Take notes, extracts or certified copies of documents or records.
3. Take certified samples of material.
4. Obtain information in form of printouts, diskettes, floppies, tapes, video cassettes or in any other electronic mode or through printouts.[S.2(j)]

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