

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

Right to Information is an Act to provide for freedom to every citizen to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, consistent with public interest, in order to promote openness, transparency and accountability in administration and in relation to matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Right To Information bill was passed by the Parliament on 13th May, 2005. The bill got the Presidential assent on 15th June to become the right to Information Act 2005. It is an Act to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority.

Informed citizenry and transparency of information are vital to the functioning of democracy. The Act provides for a system of accountability of the Government towards those who are governed and would benefit in increasing transparency and containing corruption.

The actual practice of the Act is likely to conflict with other public interests including efficient operations of the Government, optimum use of limited fiscal resources and the preservation of confidentiality of sensitive information. But the need is to harmonize this conflicting interest while preserving the paramount of the democratic ideal.

In an effort to bring about transparency and accountability and to transform the Right of Information Act into an act that empowers the people, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has made an attempt to provide information to citizens to empower them to exercise their Right to Information. The Ministry in its effort to decentralize information has made all Media Units, Public Sector Enterprises and Autonomous Bodies responsible for dissemination of information. These organizations will have their separate setup for public to gain information on issues pertaining to the unit.

Right to Information means the right to information accessible under these Act, which is held by or under the control of any public authority and includes the right to ;

1. Inspection of work, documents, records
2. Taking notes, extracts or certified copies of documents or records
3. Taking certified samples of material

4. Obtaining information in the form of diskettes, floppies, tapes, video cassettes or in any other electronic mode or through printouts where such information is stores in a computer or in any other device.