

Introduction

The Right to Information Act, 2005 has been defined as “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, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and the State Information Commissions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The Right to Information Act, 2005 was enacted on 15th June 2005 when it received the assent of the President of India and came into force on 12th October 2005 which is the 120th day of its enactment. The Act extends to the whole of India except Jammu & Kashmir.

The Act empowers the citizens of India to access the functioning of public authorities (government bodies and organisations funded wholly or partially by the government) by the following means:-

- Inspect work, documents, records;
- Take notes, extracts or certified copies of documents or records;
- Take certified samples of materials;
- Obtain information in the form of diskettes, floppies, tapes, video cassettes or in any other electronic mode or through printouts where such information is stored in a computer or in any other device.

The Right to Information Act, 2005 directs all public authorities to disclose information on areas mentioned under Section 4 (1) (b) of the

Act. There are 17 topics listed under the section which need to be proactively disclosed for information of the general public. Hence, this publication is often referred to as the “17 Manuals”. In a nutshell, the information to be disclosed should enable a layman to learn about the constitution, organizational structure, composition and functioning of the public authority.

In compliance with Section 4 (1) (b) of the Act, the Department of Human Resource Development, Government of Sikkim has prepared information for proactive disclosure. It is important to point out here that the information compiled herewith is only of the Headquarters of the Department. The District offices of the Department will come out with their respective information for disclosure. The Department has designated the District Joint Directors, HRD as Public Information Officers in all the four Districts for effective implementation of the Act.

Information has been categorised into 17 chapters and additional information which mainly speak of statistics have been included under two annexures. It will be the endeavour of the Department to disseminate this information as widely as possible. The information will also be regularly updated to make it dynamic and keep the citizens abreast with the developments in the education sector by the State Government.