

PREFACE

The Government of India vide their Letter No.D.O.No.34012/4/S/2005/ Estt.(B) dated 26.05.2005 have introduced the Right to Information Act, 2005 providing for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to ensure 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 State Information Commissions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

2. The Constitution of India has established democratic Republic which requires an informed citizenry and transparency of information which are vital to its functioning and also to contain corruption and to hold Governments and their instrumentalities accountable to the governed. However revelation of information in actual practice is likely to conflict with other public interests including efficient operations of the Governments, optimum use of limited fiscal resources and the preservation of confidentiality of sensitive information. Hence, it is necessary to harmonise these conflicting interests, while preserving the paramountcy of the democratic ideal. Now , therefore, it is expedient to provide for furnishing certain informations to citizens who desire to have it. Hence, the Right Information Act 2005 has been enacted in the 56th year of the Republic of India.

3. In the changed circumstances, in order to achieve the target, the first step is to be taken to publish the “Manuals under Right to Information Act” in respect of the **Mahatma Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Dental Sciences**, Pondicherry, being the response to the growing aspirations of the people.



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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
NEW DELHI – 110 001.

D.O.No.34012/4/(s)/2005-Estt(B).

Dated the 26th May, 2005.

Dear Chief Secretary,

With a view to make the legislation on 'right to information' more progressive, participatory and meaningful, 'The Right to Information Bill, 2004' (RTI Bill) was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23rd December, 2004. The Bill was subsequently passed by the House on 11th May 2005 after adopting certain amendments. A statement listing some of its salient features, is enclosed (**Annexure – I**). The Bill was later passed by the Rajya Sabha on 12th May, 2005 and now awaits the assent of the President.

2. The Bill lays down that the Act would come into force on the one hundred and twentieth day of its enactment. Accordingly, it would require all public authorities under the administrative control of, or those attached to, the State Government to set up the necessary infrastructure positively within 120 days so as to make the Act operational. Keeping this in view, some of the provisions of the contemplated enactment are being brought into force with immediate effect so that there is no legal infirmity in this regard. In writing the letter, it is my intention to request you to start the process of setting up the infrastructure from now itself, so that you gain some valuable lead time in complying with the mandatory provisions of the proposed Right to Information Act.

3. The various activities associated with the operationalisation of the Act broadly fall under **two categories**. In the **first category**, are the items which have to be attended to and completed before the date from which the Act come into force. The **second category** would relate to items or activities which are necessarily to be carried out once the Act becomes operational. Details of these activities are given in the statement as at **Annexure – II**.

4. Considering that the lead time between the date on which the Act receives the assent of the President and the date from which it comes into force is 120 days, it would be appreciated if an action plan is drawn for the above items and definite time-schedules are laid down for each specific task so that the entire infrastructure is set up within the time period stipulated in the enactment. For this purpose, I suggest that a **Committee may be set up in the State Government under your Chairmanship which could monitor the progress on day-to-day basis**.

5. As the provisions of the RTI Bill call for time-bound action, I would urge **advance preparatory action** at your end and thus prevent default. In case the State Government requires any clarification etc. in the matter, the Department of Personnel and Training would provide all necessary assistance.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(A.N. TIWARI)

Shri **C.S. Khairwal**
Chief Secretary
Government of Pondicherry
Pondicherry.