

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, 2002

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement-

- (1) This Act may be called the Freedom of Information Act, 2002.
- (2) It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
- (3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, -

- (a) "Appropriate Government" means in relation to a public authority established, constituted, owned and substantially financed by funds provided directly or indirectly or controlled-
 - (i) by the Central Government, the Central Government;
 - (ii) by the State Government, the State Government;
 - (iii) by the Union territory, the Central Government;
- (b) "competent authority" means-
 - (i) the Speaker in the case of the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly and the Chairman in the case of the Council of States or the Legislative Council;
 - (ii) the Chief Justice of India in the case of the Supreme Court;
 - (iii) the Chief Justice of the High Court in the case of a High Court;
 - (iv) the President or the Governor, as the case may be, in the case of other authorities created by or under the Constitution;
 - (v) the administrator appointed under article 239 of the Constitution;
- (c) "freedom of information" means the right to obtain information from any public authority by means of,-
 - (i) inspection, taking of extracts and notes;
 - (ii) certified copies of any records of such public authority;
 - (iii) diskettes, floppies or in any other electronic mode or through print-outs where such information is stored in a computer or in any other device;
- (d) "information" means any material in any form relating to the administration, operations or decisions of a public authority;
- (e) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act by the appropriate Government or the competent authority, as the case may be;
- (f) "public authority" means any authority or body established or constituted,-
 - (i) by or under the Constitution;
 - (ii) by any law made by the appropriate Government, and includes any other body owned, controlled or substantially financed by funds provided directly or indirectly by the appropriate Government;
- (g) "Public Information Officer" means the Public Information Officer appointed under sub-section (1) of section 5;

(h) "record" includes-

(i) any document, manuscript and file;

(ii) any microfilm, microfiche and facsimile copy of a document;

(iii) any reproduction of image or images embodied in such microfilm (whether enlarged or not); and

(iv) any other material produced by a computer or by any other device;

(i) "third party" means a person other than the person making a request for information and includes a public authority.