

RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

Right to Information is an Act to provide 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 Governments, 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 ideals.

In an effort to bring about transparency and accountability and to implement the provisions of the Right to Information Act, DC(MSME) has made an attempt to provide certain information to citizens to empower them to exercise their Right to Information. DC(MSME) has also designated CPIOs in all its field offices and autonomous bodies for dissemination of information. These organizations will have their separate set up for public to gain information on issues pertaining to the unit.

The DC(MSME), through a network of field offices and autonomous bodies plays an important role in the promotion and development of micro, small & medium enterprises

For facilitating the supply of Information to the citizen the DC(MSME) and its field offices have already setup Information Facilitation Counters in their office.

In case the Information is not available in the manual as well as at the counter, the said information can be sought under the Right to Information Act by applying in the prescribed format. The format along with the prescribed fees may be deposited at the counters. The receipt will then be forwarded to the concerned Central Public Information officer / Assistant Public Information officer and a date for receiving the Information would be given to the applicant.

In case the Information cannot be made available, the cause for not making available such Information would be given to the applicant in the prescribed period. If unsatisfied with the reply the applicant can seek redressal of his grievance from the appellate authority designated for the purpose.

Fees:

For providing information, this office charges a fee at the rate of Rupees two per page for printed Information. Rupees fifty per floppy and Rupees hundred in case of Information sought on CD's. In case Information is sought in form of Videocassettes, the charges would be Rs. 500/-.

However, as under the RTI Act no fees will be charged for the persons below poverty line. The request for obtaining information under subsection (1) of section 6 shall be accompanied by the application fees of Rupees ten by way of cash against proper receipt or by demand draft or bankers cheque payable to the PAO (MSME), Chennai.