

Right to Information Act 2005 and its Supportive Acts

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Abstract

RTI Act, 2005 is an important Act in the hand of general people for seeking information under the control of public authority whose object is to bring transparency and accountability in the working of public authorities. This act put obligations on public authorities to provide information under their control to general people for which they have to maintain records properly becomes necessary. And hence Maharashtra Public Record Act, 2005, Maharashtra Prevention of Delay in Discharge of Official Duty Act, 2005 and Maharashtra Guarantee of Service to Citizens Act, 2015 becomes necessary for the effective implementation and follow up of RTI Act, 2005. Also these four acts are the effective tools to bring good governance.

KEYWORDS: - RTI Act, MPR Act, MPDDOD Act, MGSCA, 2015, public authorities, good governance.

Introduction

RTI Act is an effective tool in the hand of general people which is enacted by Parliament on 15th June 2005. This act gives the citizens a right of access to information under the control of public authorities to promote transparency and accountability in the working of bureaucracy. This act gives a right to general people to inspect work, documents and records, to take notes, extracts or certified copies of documents or records, certified samples of material, obtaining information in the form of disk, floppies or in any other electronic mode. To fulfill this purpose, there is a need and also becomes vital to maintain the official records and documents properly by public authorities in their concerning departments. There is an obligation on public authorities to maintain records in a proper manner, computerisation of records and to provide suo motu information to public which is given under RTI Act, 2005.

In this context, it is an obligatory for public authorities to maintain all records scientifically and systematically in their concerning departments as per the rules given in the Maharashtra Public Records Act, 2005. This Act provides norms about the maintenance of records in systematic and scientific way. At the same time, another important act i.e. Maharashtra Prevention of Delay in Discharge of Official Duty Act, 2005 also become necessary to fulfill their duties. This act puts obligation on public authorities to discharge their duties within a time limit for the general people because every citizen of India has a right to service. Under this act the citizen charter is given which explain that the public authorities should render as facilities and service to the general people within a time limit. If they failure to discharge their duties for general people, then there is a provision for penal action in above said acts against public authorities.

Thus the above said Acts i.e. Maharashtra Public Record Act, 2005, Maharashtra Prevention of Delay in Discharge of Official Duty Act, 2005 and Maharashtra Guarantee of Service to Citizens Act, 2015 becomes necessary for the implementation of the RTI Act, 2005. If proper implementation and follow up action should be taken by applying these four acts, the object of good governance will achieve.

Conclusion:-

RTI Act, 2005 is an effective tool in the hand of general people for seeking information under the control of public authorities. At the same time, the duties of public authorities are to provide the sought information to the general people. To fulfill this, the three acts, i.e. Maharashtra Public Record Act, 2005, Maharashtra Prevention of Delay in Discharge of Official Duty Act, 2005 and Maharashtra Guarantee of Service to Citizens Act, 2015 (Right to Service) becomes important. Serious implementation of these acts will combat corruption and will bring transparency and accountability in the working of public authorities. Thus these four acts play an important role to bring Good Governance in the democratic country like India.

Reference. :-

1. RTI Act, 2005 – Bare Act
2. Maharashtra Public Record Act, 2005
3. Maharashtra Prevention of Delay in Discharge of Official Duty Act, 2005
4. Maharashtra Guarantee of Service to Citizens Act, 2015
5. Google search