

8.3 Course – III, Opt-II Right to Information

Objectives:

Free exchange of ideas is a basic pillar of a democratic society. Corruption thrives in sacred places, therefore it is stated that sunlight is the best disinfectant. There should be governance in sunshine. The course is designed to convince the students how the right to information infuses transparency and accountability in governance, preventing abuse of power.

Course Outcomes:

Students on completion of the course will be able to:

1. Explain the need for Right to Information Act.
2. apply before the authorities to get the required information.
3. To understand what kind of information can be collected and what not.
4. Understand the limitations on the application of RTI Act.

Contents:

UNIT-I

Right to Information before Right to Information Act, 2005; Significance in democracy; Constitutional basis; Supreme Court on right to information.

UNIT-II

RTI Act- definitions; Right to information and obligations of public authorities.

UNIT-III

Central information commission; State information commission; Powers and functions of information commissions; Appeals and penalties.

UNIT-IV

Other related laws - The Official Secrets Act, 1923; The Public Records Act, 1993; The Public Records Rules, 1997; The Freedom of Information Act, 2002; The Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952; The Commission of Inquiry (Central) Rules, 1972.

UNIT-V

Best practices- A study of decisions rendered by state commissions and central Commission in the following areas of – Police, Revenue, PWD, Irrigation, Secretariat, BSNL, Posts and Telegraphs, Scheduled Banks, CPWD, Income Tax Department, Central Excise Department, Local Authorities.

Prescribed Books:

J.H.Barowalia- Commentary on the right to Information Act.

Reference Books:

J.N.Barowalia- Commentary on the Right to Information Act.

S.V. Joga Rao- Law Relating to Right to Information, vol.1.