

Implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005: Role of the Meghalaya State Information Commission

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Abstract

Right to information is critical in democracy in which government is based on the principles of transparency and accountability of the rulers to the people. India adopted a democratic constitution in 1950, yet the Official Secrets Acts of 1923 continued depriving the citizens of the right to information. It was the Supreme Court through its successive rulings that brought to the fore the importance of the exercise of the right to information and that it was part of the freedom of speech and expression enshrined in the Indian Constitution. After protracted efforts, the Right to Information Act was eventually enacted in 2005. For its effective implementation, the Act provides for the establishment of the Information Commission at the Centre and the states as well. Mandated by the Act, the Meghalaya Government constituted the Meghalaya State Information Commission to oversee the implementation of the Act in the state. This paper, therefore, examines the role of the State Information Commission in the implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005 which assumes for furthering democratic governance in the state.

Keywords: Transparency, Accountability, Right to Information, Fundamental Rights, Meghalaya

I. Introduction

The Preamble of the Constitution of India begins with “We the people of India” thereby declaring that it is the expressed will of the people to adopt a Democratic Secular Socialist Republic based on popular sovereignty

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