

### Public Notice

The **Right to Information Act, 2005** has been promulgated in order to promote transparency and accountability in administration. This Act provides 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. Every public authority has certain obligations under this Act, some of which are mentioned below-

- (i) appoint Public Information Officer (PIO) (as per section 5(1) of the Act).
- (ii) publish within one hundred and twenty days from the enactment of this Act, information mentioned as Section 4(1)(b)(i) to (xvii).
- (iii) to take steps in accordance with the requirements of sub-section 1(b) of section 4 to provide as much information *suo motu* to the public at regular intervals through various means of communications, including internet, so that the public have minimum resort to the use of this Act to obtain information (as per Section 4(2) of the Act).
- (iv) provide information to applicant on payment of such fee as may be prescribed or reject the request for any of the reasons specified in sections 8, to applicants as expeditiously as possible, and in any case within thirty days of the receipt of the request.

The private universities have been established by Acts of State Government hence as per definition of public authorities given in Section 2(h)(c) of Right To Information Act, 2005, are covered by the Act.

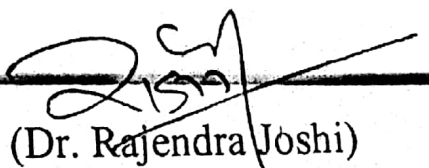
All private universities have been directed to make compliance of provisions of Right to Information Act, 2005 in letter and spirit by appointing PIO, Appellate Authority and following other provisions of the Act. The private

universities are expected to give wide publicity to all concerned through display boards, website and other publicity material of university about name and address of Public Information Officer (PIO), name and address of Appellate Authority, method of submitting applications, application fee etc.

The Right to Information Act, 2005 and related rules provides for various issues regarding disposal of application & appeals, fee to be charged, etc. Thus Public Authorities/PIOs cannot enforce their own rules to obfuscate or to nullify provisions of RTI, Act 2005 or Right to Information (Regulation of Fee & Cost) Rules, 2005. The Public Authorities cannot charge any other fee in addition to what is already prescribed in Section 6(1), 7(1) and 7(5) of the Act. As per 'Right to Information (Regulation of Fee & Cost) Rules, 2005', application fee has been prescribed as Rs 10 and other fee have also been prescribed.

All private universities have been directed to charge only the fee prescribed in RTI, Act and RTI Rules. It may be noted that penalty may be imposed on PIO for not accepting an application, Delaying information release without reasonable cause; malafidely denying information; knowingly giving incomplete, incorrect, misleading information; destroying information that has been requested; Obstructing<sup>g</sup> furnishing of information in any manner.

Indian citizens desiring to obtain information from Private Universities may apply to PIOs of concerned Private Universities as per provisions of RTI Act 2005 and RTI Rules, 2005. In case the applicant is not satisfied with disposal of his/her applications, he/she may file an appeal either with Appellate Authority of the concerned University or with Rajasthan State Information Commission, Jhalana Link Road, OTS-MNIT Chauraha, JLN Marg Jaipur-302017 as per the provision of the RTI, Act 2005.

  
(Dr. Rajendra Joshi)  
Joint Secretary