

CHAPTER II

Section 4(1)(b)(i) of RTIA 2005

Organization – functions & duties

- Particulars of Organization, Functions and Duties.

Objective/purpose of the public authority.: The main objective of the Civil Defence and Homeguards Department is to ensure proper planning for imparting of Training to Homeguards and Civil Defence Volunteers to enable them to assist the administration and the State Government in augmenting the Police in time of emergencies and in organizing Civil Defence measures for affording/safeguarding the Civil population against the effect of war and in times of emergencies like Disasters, flood, earthquake, fire etc.

Mission/vision of the public Authority: The aim of the Department is to see that all the Citizens of the State are trained and are able to respond quickly in times of need in the event of man made or natural calamities .

Brief history of the public authority.: During World War-II, ‘Home Guards’ – a voluntary citizen organisation for local defence was raised in the United Kingdom. In India, in December 1946, Home Guards were raised in Bombay to assist the police in controlling civil disturbances and communal riots. Subsequently, this concept of a voluntary citizen’s force as auxiliary to the Police for maintenance of law and order and for meeting emergencies like floods, fires, famines etc. was adopted by several other States. In the wake of Chinese aggression in 1962, the Centre advised the States and Union Territories to merge their existing voluntary organisations into the all-India force known as ‘Home Guards’ which would be **voluntary both in concept and character.**

‘Civil Defence’ includes any measures, **not amounting to actual combat**, for affording protection to any person, property, place or thing in India or any part of the territory thereof against any hostile attack, whether from air, land, sea or other places, or for depriving any such attack of the whole or part of its effect, whether such measures are taken before, during or after the time of such attack.

Mission/ Vision Statement. The Home Guards & Civil Defence Department aims for expansion and modernisation in order to cater to the needs of the present Socio-Economic and Security Scenario in the Country. Till date there are 3 (three) Civil Defence Towns in

Meghalaya. They are Shillong, Jowai and Tura. Shillong is Category-I Civil Defence Town and only recently Civil Defence Towns Jowai and Tura have been re-established by the Government of India after deactivation. There are presently 3 (three) District Training Centres for Home Guards - Shillong, Jowai and Tura. The immediate objective of the Department is to establish Home Guards Training Centres at Nongstoin (West Garo Hills) and Williamnagar (East Garo Hills). On modernisation, the Department envisages to get modern arms and land for Shillong Directorate and all units.

Duties of the Public Authority.: The Duties of the public Authority (Deptt) is to formulate Policies and Programmes and in this connection co-ordinate, supervise and monitor their implementation towards realization of the stated objectives.

List of services being provided by the Public Authority with a brief up on them
Home Guards:-

- (a) To serve as an auxiliary to the police and assist in maintaining internal security.
- (b) Assist the community in any kind of emergency in air raid fire, flood, epidemic and so on
- (c) Organise functional units to provide essential services such as motor transport, pioneer and engineer groups, fire brigades, nursing and first aid operation of water and power supply in installation etc
- (d) Promote communal harmony and give assistance to the administrator in protecting weaker sections of the society.
- (e) Participate in socio Economic and welfare activities such as adult education, health and hygiene development

Civil Defence.

- (a) To train volunteers on Civil defence Subjects like first aid, disaster warden services, communication, flood, fire fighting, rescue, etc.
- (b) To air raid precautions like evacuation shelter, Blackout etc.
- (c) To organise as an integral part of the defence of the country
- (d) Civil defence arrangements in selected places and vital installations.
- (e) Civil Defence is primarily on a voluntary basis