

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Right To Information Act – 2005

PREFACE

To make the aforesaid Act more progressive, participatory and meaningful, the "Right to Information Bill, 2004, has been passed by both the House of Parliament in May, 2005, and received the assent of the President on the 15th June, 2005, following which "The Right to Information Act, 2005' has been published in the Gazette of India on the 21st June, 2005 and consequently, would require all Public Authorities attached to various Ministries/ Departments to make arrangements in advance for setting up necessary infrastructure to operationalize it. As envisaged in the Act, it would come into force on the one hundred and twentieth day of its enactment.

The chain of Andaman and Nicobar Islands consisting of 572 Islands from North to South is located about 1200 km South of Kolkata on longitude 93⁰- 94⁰ E and latitude 6⁰ to 14⁰ N. The total geographical area of the Islands is 8249 sq.km of which about 86% of land is still covered under thick forest and only 14% has been cleared for the rehabilitation purpose including agriculture. The area under agriculture is around 50000 ha. Which accounts to 6% of the total area. Out of the 572 Islands only 36 Islands are inhabited and of which 8 Islands have been covered under the various settlement programme. The Department of Agriculture was established in 1945 to develop agriculture in these Islands in a systematic and scientific line.