

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 objectives of the Civil Defence and Home Guards Department is to ensure proper planning for imparting of Training to Home Guards 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 the World War –II, ‘Home Guards’ – a voluntary citizen organization 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 part of its effect, whether such measures are taken before, during at or after the time of such attack.

Mission/Vision Statement. The Home Guards & Civil Defence Department aims for expansion and modernization in order to cater to the needs of the present Socio-Economic and Security Scenario in the Country. Till date there are 11 (eleven) Civil Defence Towns in Meghalaya. They are Shillong, Jowai, Tura, Nongpoh, Nongstoin, Williamnagar, Baghmara, Mawkyrwat, Khliehriat, Ampati and Resubelpara. Shillong, Jowai and Tura are in Category-II Civil Defence Town, while Nongpoh, Nongstoin, Williamnagar, Baghmara in Category-III. There are presently 11 (eleven) District Training Centres for Home Guards – Shillong, Tura, Jowai, Nongpoh, Nongstoin, Williamnagar, Baghmara, Khliehriat, Mawkyrwat, Ampati, Resubelpara.

Duties of the Public Authority: The Duties of the Public Authority (Department) 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. Serve as an auxiliary to the police and assist in maintaining internal security.
- b. Assist the community in any kind of emergency an air raid, a fire, a flood, an epidemic and so on.
- c. Organize 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 installations etc.
- d. Promote communal harmony and give assistance to the administration in protecting weaker sections of the society.
- e. Participate in socio-economic and welfare activities such as adult education, health and hygiene, development schemes and such other tasks as are deemed useful.

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 organize as an integral part of the defense of the country.
- d. Civil Defence arrangements in selected places and vital installations.
- e. Civil Defence is primarily on a voluntary basis.

Directorate Level
ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE IN THE CIVIL DEFENCE & HOME GUARDS DEPTT., MEGHALAYA.

