

CHAPTER-I **INTRODUCTION**

This hand book is intended for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information of Port Department, Government of Pondicherry as per the guidelines stipulated under the act of Parliament " The Right to Information Act, 2005" in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of "Port Department, Government of Pondicherry" for matters connected therewith or incidental there to.

This hand book will be of immense use to the Port users/ cargo movers/Ship charters & chandeliers/dock labourers /environmentalists/ fisherman community as well as to the public.

The information about the Port department is organized in a meticulous manner for easy understanding of a common man by providing definitions of various terms used in this hand boom along with details of contact persons and the procedure with fee structure for getting information not available in the hand book as detailed below.

DEFINITIONS-:

- i. "Port means the space within such limit as may from time to time, be defined by the Government of Pondicherry for the purpose of the Pondicherry landing and Shipping Fees Act 1971 and defined under the provisions of the Indian Ports Act, 1908.
- ii. Port includes also any part of river or channel in which the Indian Ports Act 1908 is for the time being in force.
- iii. Pier:- It includes any stage, stairs, landing place, hard, jetty floating barge or pontoon and any barges or other works connected therewith.
- iv. Quay:- means a land place conveniently fitted on the shore for the loading or unloading of vessels and includes a wharf.
- v. "Vessel" includes anything made for the conveyance mainly by water or human beings or of property.
- vi. "Wharf" includes any wall or stage and any part of the land or foreshore that may used for loading or unloading goods or for the embarkation or disembarkation of passengers and any wall enclosing or adjoining the same.
- vii. "Government" means the Administrator of the Union Territory of Pondicherry appointed by the President under article 239 of the constitution.

- viii. Information means any material in any form including records documents, memos, emails, opinions, advise, press releases, circulars, orders, logbook, contracts, reports, samples, models, date materials held in any electronic form and information relating to any private body which can be accessed by Port department, Government of Pondicherry under any other law for the time being in force.
- ix. "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this act by the Government of Pondicherry.
- x. "Public Authority" means Port Department, Government of Pondicherry.
- xi. "Contact Person" Port Officer, Port Department, No.1, Rue Dumas, Pondicherry. The procedure and fee structure for getting information is explained at appropriate places in the hand book. For any other information not available in this hand book, it may be obtained in person from the Port Officer, Port Department, Pondicherry.