

1. GIVE A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION.

The Right to Information Act, 2005 provides for the creation of both the Central Information Commission and a State Information Commission at the state level. The Act provides for a Chairman and ten State Information Commissioners. Odisha Information Commission has been constituted since 2005 with the mandate to exercise the powers conferred on, and to perform the function assigned to it under the said act. It consists of a Chairman and two other Information Commissioners.

They are appointed by the Governor on the recommendations of the committee consisting of the Chief Minister as the Chairperson, the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and State Cabinet Minister nominated by the CM.

They should be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and should not hold office of profit. They should not be a Member of Parliament or Member of State Legislature of any State or UT. They are not connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.

The State Chief Information Commissioner and a State Information Commissioner hold office for a period of 5 years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. They are not eligible for reappointment. They can be removed from office by the Governor on the grounds of insolvency, conviction, engagement in any other paid employment during term of office, mental or physical unsoundness, and corruption. They can also be removed on the ground of misbehavior. In the latter case, the Governor has to refer the matter to the Supreme Court for an enquiry. After the enquiry, if the SC upholds the cause of removal, the Governor can remove them.