

FOREWORD

Judged by the criterion of the GLP (Gross Legislative Product), contemporary India would rank among the most developed nations of the world. Overlegislation has truly become an Indian way of life.

An important social cost of the explosion of laws is that access to legal information has become progressively difficult, cumbersome and costly. Not merely the citizens, whose rights and duties are determined by the law, but also the administrators obligated to administer the laws often find themselves unaware of their existence and contents. So far have we allowed ourselves to move away from the foundations of civilized jurisprudence that the maxim that 'ignorance of law is no excuse' has a rather pathetic and hollow ring in India.

The law made by Parliament and State Legislatures increasingly delegate rule-making power to the administration. It is often enough difficult to know what the operative law really is without complete information concerning subordinate legislation. The rules, orders, notifications are usually published in government gazettes; but the gazettes do not contain any index. If you want to know what subordinate legislation has occurred under an Act in a particular year, you have to engage in a formidable process of search and research.

The lamented Professor Shrimander Nath Jain, the Director of the Indian Law Institute, a noted administrative lawyer, thought that it was unproductive to keep complaining about overlegislation; he thought it more important to attend to the practical task of bringing some order into chaos. The conception of this Referencer, planned as an annual publication, was provided by him and the initial work was planned and executed under his guidance. Though the Referencer has been partially modelled on the *British Government Rules and Orders*, necessary modifications, bearing the Indian context in mind, have resulted into giving it a distinctive format.

We are greatly indebted to the Ministry of Law and Justice for making available its tabulations on the earliest notifications included in the Referencer. We are especially grateful to Mr. Jagdishwarnarain, Mr. Saluja, Mrs. Kaur and the staff of the G.S.R.O. section for their cooperation.

We are grateful to Mr. Pramod Singh who worked in the late hours of the day to cross-check and update the data included in the Referencer.

I must also add a word of appreciation for the rigorous work put in by Ms. Amita Dhanda, Assistant Research Professor, in preparing this

Referencer. This kind of work is not conceptually exciting; and requires enormous patience with minute details. Ms. Dhanda did not allow herself to be deterred by the volume or the tedium of the labour involved.

I very much hope that this work will be found useful to all concerned and that the users will want to make suggestions for changes which make its further volumes even more useful.

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