

Central Information Commission

**Appeal No. 14/IC(A)/2006
F.No. CIC/MA/A/2006/0002**

Dated, the 27th March, 2006

Name of the Appellant : B.H. Veerasha, Brashtachara Nirmoolana Vedike,
No. 54, 17th Cross, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagar,
Bangalore-560040.

Name of the Public Authority : Deputy General Manager & Appellate Authority,
Planning & Development Wing, Canara Bank, Head
Office, 112, J C Road, Bangalore-560002.

DECISION

Grounds of Appeal :

The appellant requested for information on expenditure incurred by the Bank for execution of interior work on their Head Office Building situated at No. 112, J C Road, Bangalore, during the period 1.4.1991 to 31.9.2006 in the following format.

1. Nomenclature / Particulars of work undertaken.
2. Total amount paid to the Contractor with Bill Number and Date.
3. Name & address of Contractor with their PAN Number.
4. Particulars of Tax Deducted at Source – both Income Tax & Service Tax.

The above information has been sought in a CD in electronic media. The appellant has alleged that the CPIO has supplied incomplete, misleading and incorrect information. The appellate authority while dismissing the appeal upheld the decision of the CPIO and contended that the information furnished by the CPIO is in accordance with the Act and as per the records maintained by them under the guidelines of the RBI. The information is to be provided in the form in which it exists with the Bank.

A detailed response received from the Bank indicates that the appellant was provided with the particulars of expenditure incurred under the repairs and maintenance from the period 1998 to 2005. The Bank has supplied the Annual Reports for this period to the Commission also. The Bank has explained that the information provided to the appellant is not misleading, incomplete or false. This information is as per the published balance sheet of the Bank, which were duly audited and accepted by the various regulatory authorities. The Bank has mentioned that the appellant has sought non-existent information for a period up to 30.9.2006. Prior to the coming into force of the RTI Act, Banks have been maintaining records as per the RBI guidelines for a period of 8 years. Hence, it is not possible to provide the information for the period sought by the appellant,

as it does not exist in the format asked for. The appellant was denied the details such as name and address of the contractors and their PAN Number, treating this information as personal, the disclosure of which has no relationship to public activity or interest and same would also cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual / third party.

Commission's Decision :

The information is to be provided in the form in which it exists with the public authority and that without disproportionately diverting the resources of the information provider. The information sought by the appellant is available in great detail in the Annual Reports, which have been given to the appellant. If it is not available in electronic form, it does not have to be created for the appellant. There is, thus, no question of denial of information to him. As regards personal information, such as the details of PAN Number, which functions as a unique identification for each tax payer need not be given. Making PAN public can result in misuse of this information by other persons to quote wrong PAN while entering into financial transactions linked with PAN. The Bank has provided the data / information in the form in which they are maintained as per RBI guidelines. The CPIO of the Bank has thus complied within the requirement of the RTI Act in providing the information with the stipulated time.

The appeal is therefore dismissed.

Sd/-
(M.M. Ansari)
Information Commissioner

Authenticated true copy :

(P.K. Gera)
Registrar

Cc:

1. Deputy General Manager & Appellate Authority, Planning & Development Wing, Canara Bank, Head Office, 112, J C Road, Bangalore-560002.
2. Shri B.H. Veerasha, Brashtachara Nirmoolana Vedike, No. 54, 17th Cross, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040.