

Commodore Lokesh. K. Batra (retd.)
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18 Oct 2007

To
Shri Wajahat Habibullah
Chief Information Commissioner
Room No. 306, 2nd Floor
August Kranti Bhavan
Bhikaji Kama Place
New Delhi-110 066

Email : whabibullah@nic.in

Observation on Recommendations of Conference of 'Information Commissioners'
Held on 17 Oct 2007

Dear Shri Wajahat Habibullah ji,

1. Sir, I am shocked to read the second recommendation of the IST Session on enforcement of Section-4. It has found Regional Passport Offices as model to replicate by others.

2. My case CIC/OK/A/2007/00632 of RTI appeal cum complaint against Regional Passport Ghaziabad was heard by Dr O.P.Kejriwal, Central IC on 03 Sept 2007 and is still under follow up. My RTI itself was seeking information on the implementation of Section 4 by the said public authority.

3. You will be surprised to learn that the Regional passport officer Ghazibad in his first reply conveyed that they have implemented section-4. And now in response to my rejoinder on his reply he has said "I like to inform you that section 4 of the RTI act is not done at the level of each Passport Office by the Ministry as whole". The RPO Ghazibad has posted this letter to Dr O.P.Kejriwal, Central IC only on 15 Oct 2007 vide his letter No. GZB/RTI/55/2007 received by me yesterday evening i.e. PM 17 Oct 2007.

Sir, the link for home page of Regional Passport Office, Ghaziabad website is for you to judge for your self:

<http://passport.gov.in/ghaziabad.html>

You will not find any RTI related information except the name of PIO.

I am attaching a word document copy of my rejoinder dated 24 Sep 2007 on which I have received the latest reply on which I will soon be E-mailing my response to the Central IC, Dr O.P.Kejriwal.

In these circumstances how could we even think of Regional Passport Offices as model to replicate by others?

I strongly recommend deletion of this recommendation.

Best Regards,
Commodore Lokesh. K. Batra (Retd.)