

**A. P. No. 432/2007/SIC**

Shri E. T. Varghese,  
Erathu House, Villooni P. O.,  
Arppookara - 686 006. } Appellant

*Vs*

Public Information Officer and  
Additional District Magistrate,  
Collectorate,  
Kottayam. } Respondent

**ORDER**

Shri E.T. Varghese is the appellant/requester in this case. Ext. A1 was a request preferred by him before the Public Information Officer and Deputy Collector (General), Kottayam. It was filed on 5-5-2007. He wanted the following information:—

“ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട കെ. എം. മാണിയുടെ ജനസമ്പർക്ക പരിപാടിയിൽ ഞാൻ കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്ന അപേക്ഷ ഇതിൽ ചേർക്കുന്നു:

- (1) 8-5-2002-ലെ കളക്ടർ എടുത്തിരിക്കുന്ന ഉത്തരവും തുടർന്ന് 1-14 (പതിനാല്) ഉത്തരവും ഇതിൽ ചേർത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്)
16. ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി കളക്ടർ ജനറൽ ഒപ്പ് ഇട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഉത്തരവ് ശരിപ്പകർപ്പ് ഇതിൽ ചേർക്കുന്നു. മുഴുവൻ രേഖകളും ഫീസ് അടച്ച് 2 രൂപ പ്രകാരവും 50 രൂപ പ്രകാരം ഫ്ലോപ്പി ഡി. ഡി. ആയിട്ട് കിട്ടുന്നതിന് വേണ്ട നടപടി എടുക്കണമെന്ന് അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു”.

He wanted the proceedings of the Janasambarkka paripadi of the then Hon. Minister Shri K. M. Mani and that too in the CD Format. Ext. A2 was the reply furnished to him. But the same was not served because of change in address. The photo copy of the envelope was marked as Ext. A2. Further, the reply was served through the Village Officer, Arppookara. The forwarding letter was marked as Ext. A3. There was also a demand for remittance of fee. The appellant insisted the required information in a CD format and, therefore, had again preferred a first appeal before the District Collector. The same was marked as Ext. A4. The District Collector had also informed the requester that the CD format was not available and he had to remit the amount of Rs. 2 per page for obtaining the information. This communication was marked as Ext. A5. Thereupon the appellant preferred the appeal before the Commission.

**The question that arises for consideration is whether a requester is at liberty to demand the information in a particular format?**

This case was taken up for hearing at the full Commission sitting of the State Information Commission at Idukki on 30-11-2007. The Deputy Collector-cum-Public Information Officer Mr. M.V. Balakrishnan and Mr. E.T. Varghese, the appellant were present. Both sides were heard. The reply allegedly given by the Collector while issuing Ext. A5 letter was that the CD format was not available because the computerisation was not over. If

the information sought was not available in a computer it was impossible to provide it in the CD. What was required was information and not the mode under which it was to be disseminated.

Since the document sought for was not stored in computer or CD format, the PIO had intimated his inability to provide the information in the CD format. A notice in this regard was issued to the party on 15-5-2007. The Commission observed that the petitioner was entitled to get the information in the form in which it was kept with the public authority. Since the information was not stored with the Public Authority in the computer or CD format, the petitioner was not eligible to get information in the CD format. The appellant agreed to accept the information as was available with the Public Information Officer on payment of the original cost as assessed by the Public Information Officer at 10.30 a.m. on 4-12-2007. Accordingly, the appeal is closed.

Dated this the 6th day of December, 2007.