



**The State Information Commission, Kerala**  
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**AP.No.473/2007/SIC**  
**(File No.5509/G2/2007)**

Shri.Balan Pillai,  
Kizhakkanattu  
Publisher, Minnal Dwaiwarika,  
Thodupuzha.



Appellant

Vs

Public Information Officer and  
Deputy Collector (C.S),  
Collectorate, Idukki.



Respondent

**ORDER**

The requester/appellant in this case is one Mr.Balan Pillai. On 15.3.2007, Mr.Balan Pillai, the publisher of a by-weekly "Minnal" had preferred a request before the Public Information Officer and Additional District Magistrate, Idukki seeking the following information.

What was the required time for presentation of declaration under the Press and Books Registration Act? Whether any action has been taken against publishers that had no registration or had not filed any declaration? Half a dozen questions were thus asked by the requester/appellant.

A reply was furnished to him on 3.5.2007 asking to remit Rs.2/- towards the cost of the information and this intimation was marked as Ext A2. Before actually furnishing of this intimation, another letter was also sent to the requester intimating him that his request was being processed in the Collectorate. The requester did not receive the information, but on 24.7.2007 had preferred another appeal. The same was also answered on the 27th of the same month intimating him to receive the information after specifying what are the documents requested by him. This communication was marked as Ext A4.

A detailed report from the respondent was called for. It was submitted that Ext A1 request was a vague and inadequate one. It was a narration of certain irregularities in the implementation of the Press and Books Registration Act with respect to the District Idukki. He was asked to appear before the Public Information Officer and explain his demand and specify the information that he had requested. Even a demand to remit the fee was not observed by the requester. The demands were contradictory to each other. The attempts to contact him had failed and, thereafter on 19.5.2007 even without remitting the required fee, information was sent to him by post, forwarding letter was marked as Ext A5.

***The question that arises for consideration is whether the information was furnished to the requester as demanded by him?***

Both the Public Information Officer and the Appellate Authority failed to decipher what was the real question raised by him. The Commission after careful study had found that what he had requested was six items of information with regard to the Press and Books Registration Act. Each question demanded separate answers. The questions were general questions like, what was the normal period required for declaration under the Press and Books Registration Act? Whether any action had been taken against publishers who published books without declaration during the last 20 years? Whether any action was taken against any Press that had published books without declaration? Whether

there was any periodicals published from Idukki District without filing a declaration? Whether there were any periodicals published without renewal of declaration and whether any action was taken against any Press that had contravened the provisions of the Press and Books Registration Act?

Both the Public Information Officer cum Additional District Magistrate, Idukki and the Appellant/requester had appeared. They were heard in detail. The Additional District Magistrate, Shri.E.Suryanarayanan had undertaken to furnish the information on or before 3.12.2007 and accordingly the same was furnished to the appellant on 1.12.2007, and intimated the Commission accordingly.

Therefore, this appeal is allowed.

Dated this the 6th day of December, 2007.

Authenticated copy

Secretary to Commission