



**The State Information Commission, Kerala**  
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**Complaint No.281/2007/SIC**

Shri.U.Prakash,  
Jilla President,  
Nethaji Cultural Centre,  
Geethanjali,  
Vakkam.P.O. Thiruvananthapuram.

Petitioner

**Vs**

Public Information Officer  
District Collectorate,  
Thiruvananthapuram.

Respondent

**ORDER**

C.P.281/2007 is a complaint under Section 18 of the RTI Act. The complaint was entertained on the following grounds:-

Shri.U.Prakash, President of Netaji Cultural Centre, Geethanjali, Vakkom had preferred a request before the District Collector, Trivandrum. The information requested as such was reproduced below:-

"kÀ;mÀ \nban" IfIvSdpsS D]tZiIkanXnbpsS  
\nÀt±i{]Imcw X;mdm;n {]kn²oIcn"n«pÅ 644 t]cpsS INA s]³j³  
kw\_Ôn" enÎnÂs]Sm⁻ aämÀs;|nepw INA s]³jsâ B\pIqÃyw  
e`n"n«pt-m? A§s\ e`n"n«ps-|nÂ BbXnsâ D⁻chv \¼cpw  
hÀjhpw A⁻c⁻nÂ e`n"bmfnsâ t]cpw Adnbnbv;m³ At]£".

The report of the Public Information Officer was called for in this case and the Public Information Officer was also heard personally. It was seen from the records that the reply has been furnished on 10.5.2007. The report was marked as Ext A2 and the reply furnished as Ext A3. Ext A1(a) is the acknowledgement received for Ext A1.

The question that arises for consideration is whether the information furnished is correct and whether there was any delay in furnishing the information?

From the very outset it could be seen that Ext A1 was dated 23.3.2007 ie., the request u/s.6 of the RTI Act. It was seen acknowledged vide Ext A1(a) on 26.3.2007. However, the reply was seen furnished only on 10.5.2007. By counting the actual days there was a delay of 13 days in furnishing the information. This delay was explained by the Public Information Officer with reference to the records in his possession that the same was brought to the notice of the Public Information Officer only after the expiry of one or two weeks. The reason was obvious because Ext A1 request was addressed to the District Collector, Collectorate, Trivandrum and was not addressed to the Public Information Officer or the Assistant Public Information Officer. Therefore, after sorting out the application, the same was received by the Public Information Officer subsequently. Therefore, the delay of a few days was only negligible. But the Public Information Officer is warned severely to give strict instructions to put up applications under the RTI Act to the Public Information Officer directly on receipt of the same and delay of even one day is a serious matter.

The next issue was the essential element in this case. The question was a little bit twisted and unintelligible. What the requester wanted was the information whether INA pension was granted to anyone other than 644 persons who were already in the published list of the District Collector. Ext A3, the report says that there were two separate list for INA pensioners, one was the state list and the other was the central list. As per Ext A3, the number of persons receiving state pension was 1433 and the number of persons receiving central pension was 661. There was no separate list of INA pensioners. So it was very difficult to answer the query whether there were any other persons receiving INA pension other than those mentioned in the pension list. INA pensioners were not a categorised or the number of INA pensioners were not codified and in the absence of codified list it would be impracticable to suggest whether anyone other than those mentioned in the list was receiving INA pension. This question was only an imaginary one not referring to any specific individual or specific instance.

Therefore, to answer the query it requires a further investigation into the matter. What was the actual number of INA pensioners in the District and whether there were anyone else who was also eligible for INA pension? This confusion might have been the reason for delaying the information. It is high time for the District Administration to prepare a list of INA pensioners and persons receiving other pension other than INA pension.

So the petition is allowed to the extent that the information shall be furnished to the requester within 15 days of the receipt of copy of this order after due verification and consideration.

Pronounced by the Commission on this, the 3rd day of October 2007.

Authenticated copy

Secretary to Commission