



**Before the State Information Commission, Kerala  
Thiruvananthapuram-695 039.**

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**Complaint No.375/2007/SIC**

File No.2387/SIC-Gen2/07

25.08.2007

M.K. Anujan  
Kalapurakkal(H)  
Thadiyambadu P.O.  
Idukki



Petitioner

**Vs**

Public Information Officer  
District Medical Office  
Idukki.



Respondent

**ORDER**

The Complainant Shri. M.K. Anujan approached the Commission with a complaint on 16.04.2007. The facts leading to the complaint can be summarized as follows.

The Complainant applied for some information to the Public Information Officer of the District Medical Office, Idukki on 12.03.2007. The complainant claims that at the time of submitting the application, he had told the officer concerned that he belongs to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category and that he had attached a copy of his Ration Card to the application. He had also attached copy of his Identity Card also to the application. As a candidate of the BPL category, he had not attached Rs.10/- in any of the forms prescribed. But to his dismay, the application was dubbed as defective and returned on 20.03.2007 with the instruction to re-submit the application by removing the defects. Hence the complaint to the Commission.

The Commission carefully examined the complaint. The Commission could see the marking BPL on the copy of the Ration Card. It instructed the Respondent to dispose of the petition within 10 days of the receipt of the instruction of the Commission. Consequently the Respondent wrote to the complainant to re-submit the application, so that he/she could furnish the information asked for.

The commission found that there is a serious offence. So the PIO concerned was summoned for a personal hearing and the hearing was held on 20.08.2007. Dr. P.K. Ammini, the then PIO was present. She conceded that she had signed the communication returning the application. She could not offer any cogent reason for not accepting the application. So the Commission found her guilty of rejecting an otherwise valid application. The application dated 12.03.2007 was lying rejected even on the day of the hearing ie. 20.08.2007, ie. even after 5 months. Hence the Commission decided to impose the maximum penalty of Rs.25000/- on the errant PIO. The Commission direct the Respondents to remit the amount in head of account "0070-60-800-36 receipts under Right to Information Act, 2005" within 30 days of receipt of the copy of this order failing which the amount shall be recovered by attachment of the movables and immovable of the PIOs concerned.

Pronounced on 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2007.