

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
भारतीय अन्तरीक्ष अनुसन्धान संगठन/ Indian Space Research Organisation
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
तिरुवनन्तपुरम/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695022

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपीलीय प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही
PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005
Appeal No.01/2025 (File No.VSSC/RTI/7/3813)

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/
Name of Appellant

प्रतिवादी का नाम/
Name of Respondent

: **Shri Anil Kumar B**
Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. Background

submitted an RTI Application dated 05.12.2024 seeking certain information related to the issuance of 3 Memoranda to him under RTI Act, 2005. The appellant sought the following information.

Provide the copies of complaint, documents including e-mails, noting(s), approval (s) and related documents which culminated issuance of three Memoranda referred below:

- Memorandum No. VSSC/VGS/CCS(C)/24836/2021 dated 08.07.2021
- Memorandum No. VSSC/VGS/349/2022 dated 26.08.2022
- Memorandum No. VSSC/VGS/423/2024/386 dated 19.03.2024

On perusal of the application, CPIO has observed that the appellant sought the copies of complaint, documents including e-mails, noting(s), approval (s) and related documents which led to the issue of three Memoranda referred above. *Subsequently, on receipt of the reply received from the Custodian of Records, CPIO vide letter dated 01.01.2025 informed the appellant that the disclosure of the sought information would endanger the physical safety of the complainant or identify the source of information given in confidence and hence the same cannot be disseminated under Sec. 8(1)(g) of the RTI Act, 2005.* Not satisfied with the reply of CPIO, the Appellant preferred first appeal dated 05.01.2025 before the First Appellate Authority (FAA), VSSC requesting the following:

2. Prayers in the appeal

- i. Direct CPIO to provide complete information as sought through his application and impose penalty to CPIO as the decision of non-dissemination of information by citing Sec-8(1) (g) of the RTI Act, 2005 is not in conformity with the provisions of the act.
- ii. Sr. Head, PGA who issued Memoranda to the appellant has denied information against his RTI application by holding the position of CPIO.
- iii. Information sought is general in nature and it pertains to the appellant only. Therefore, non-dissemination of information by CPIO does not come under the ambit of Sec-8(1)(g) of the act as identifying the source of information given in confidence for law enforcement or security purposes.

...2/-

- iv. The appellant has stated that, "through the reply CPIO alleges that the appellant who is a Senior Class A Gazetted Officer in ISRO, DOS is capable of physically harming those who may have been involved in the process of issuance of these office Memorandums to the appellant. This is a very serious charge the CPIO has levelled against the appellant. By invoking this section is like making an allegation against a senior officer of ISRO, which would be reducing the respect and the structure of the organization."

3. Decision

On perusal of the application, I have observed that the appellant filed RTI application dated 05.12.2024 seeking information which culminated the issuance three Memoranda referred at para.No.1. Subsequently, on receipt of the reply from the custodian of records, CPIO has observed that the disclosure of the sought information would endanger the physical safety of the complainant or identify the source of information given in confidence. Therefore, CPIO vide letter dated 01.01.2025 informed the appellant that the sought information is exempted from disclosure under Sec. 8(1)(g) of the RTI Act, 2005 and disposed the RTI request 'Online' on 03.01.2025.

- (a) Here, the appellant may note that, the above referred Memoranda are the communications issued to the appellant, who is working as Sr. Purchase & Stores Officer in VSSC, warning him to desist from certain misconduct he committed. The said warning Memoranda were issued based on certain information/complaint the Competent Authority received from various functionaries/persons in confidence. The appellant sought the copies of such complaints/documents, notings, approvals etc through the RTI application. If such documents are disclosed to the appellant against whom allegations are made, the same would cause to identify the source of information, which may pose a threat to the complainant/information provider. It is also relevant to mention that the Memoranda do not constitute any punishment or penalty to the appellant employee and the same has affected neither his pay nor his service conditions, in any manner. Moreover, there is no public interest which warrants disclosure of the information to the appellant.
- (b) Regarding the contentions raised at Para 3 (i) above, it is to mention that as per RTI Act, any individual can file RTI application before the Public Authority seeking information against a subject and CPIO can disseminate only those information which are disclosable under the provisions of the Act. In the instant case, certain complaints against the appellant have been received and on examination of the facts, the Competent Authority has issued Memoranda to the appellant. Obviously, disseminating the sought copies of complaint & related documents will endanger *the physical safety of the complainant or identify the source of information given in confidence as per Sec.8(1)(g) of the RTI Act, 2005* and hence the non-dissemination of information by CPIO is in order. Since CPIO furnished the exact reply as per the provision of RTI Act, CPIO is not liable to pay any penalty under RTI Act, 2005.
- (c) As regards the allegations raised at Para. 3(ii), if a complaint/irregularity/misconduct against an employee is found/reported, the same will be scrutinized by the concerned authority, and if any substance is found, the employee will be cautioned/warned to desist from such practices in future duly following relevant service rules, Here, Shri B Anil Kumar, the Sr. Head, PGA of the Centre issued the Memoranda as directed by the Competent Authority. Sr. Head, PGA is also the CPIO of the Centre as per guidelines issued by Department of Space under RTI Act, 2005. The responsibilities of Sr. Head PGA and CPIO are entirely different and while furnishing information under RTI Act, the CPIO takes independent and unbiased decision. Therefore, the allegation of the appellant that Sr. Head, PGA, who issued Memoranda to the appellant and holding the position of CPIO, did not disseminate the sought information does not deserve any merit.

- (d) At para.3(iii), the appellant claimed that the information sought by the appellant is general in nature and it pertains to the appellant only. Also, he claimed that non-dissemination of information under Sec-8(1) (g) of the Act on the ground of identifying the source of information given in confidence for law enforcement or security purposes by CPIO is unjustifiable as there is no such matter related to law enforcement or security purpose. In this context, it is reiterated that the warning Memoranda were issued based on certain information/complaint the Competent Authority received from various functionaries/persons in confidence. If such documents are disclosed, the same would cause to identify the source of information, which may pose a threat to the complainant/information provider. Moreover, there is no public interest which warrants disclosing the information to the appellant.
- (e) The appellant raised last contention at para.3 (iv) and according to him *CPIO alleges that the appellant who is a Senior class A Gazetted Office in ISRO, DOS is capable of physically harming those who may have been involved in the process of issuance of these office Memorandums to the appellant. The appellant added that this is a very serious charge the CPIO levelled against him by invoking section 8(1)(g) against a senior officer of ISRO, which would be reducing the respect and the structure of the organization. On perusal of the reply provided by CPIO, it is noted that nowhere in the reply CPIO has made any of the statement as alleged by the appellant. The said statements are merely interpretation made by the appellant and hence not at all relevant here. The appellant is raising accusations against CPIO, but unfounded. In view of the above facts, I do not find merit in the appeal petition brought before me.*
4. Accordingly, this Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the ^{4th} day of January, 2025.
5. A second appeal if desired against this decision may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.



(मनोज सी/Manoj C)

प्रथम अपीलीय प्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/
मुख्य नियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

1.

2. CPIO, VSSC/IISU

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
तिरुवनन्तपुरम/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपीलीय प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

Appeal No(s).03-20/2025, 21-27/2025, 28-56/2025, 62-70/2025
(File No.VSSC/RTI/7-3489-3866, 3867-3873, 3874-3902, 3905-3913)

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/
Name of Appellant

प्रतिवादी का नाम/
Name of Respondent

: **Shri Anil Kumar B**
Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. Background

109 RTI applications, seeking certain information related to 109 Tender Notices issued by VSSC, under RTI Act, 2005. The appellant sought 6 queries in each of the application such as the current status of the respective tenders, number of companies participated in the tender with their name and address, whether the referred tender is issued, if so, the date of issue, the company received the tender its name and other details, the rate quoted by the company who awarded/received the tender, provide the hard copy of the order containing all the rate details quoted etc.

On perusal of the applications, CPIO has observed that the sought information related to different Tender Notices issued by VSSC. As per the reply received from the Custodian of Records, it is found that the sought information is scattered in different files and not available in compiled format. Therefore, gathering such information from voluminous files will disproportionately divert the resources of the Public Authority. Hence, CPIO vide letter(s) dated 03/01/2025 informed the same to the appellant and disposed the 109 RTI applications received before the Public Authority within the stipulated time period of 30 days. Not satisfied with the reply of CPIO, the Appellant preferred 63 First Appeals against 63 RTI applications as follows:

- 18 Appeals dated 23.01.2025 (RTI File No.3849-3866 dtd. 23.12.2024)
 - 7 Appeals dated 27.01.2025 (RTI File No.3867-3873 dtd. 24.12.2024)
 - 29 Appeals dated 27.01.2025 (RTI File No.3874-3902 dtd. 26.12.2024)
 - 9 Appeals dated 29.01.2025 (RTI File No.3905-3913 dtd. 27.12.2024)
- } 63 Appeals

2. Prayers in the appeal

Through the appeal petition(s) the appellant has stated that being a “physically handicapped person, she could not directly come to VSSC and inspect the documents available with the Public Authority. Therefore, the sought information against the above referred 63 appeals may be provided”.

3. Decision

On perusal of the appeal petitions, I have observed that the appellant filed 109 RTI applications before the Public Authority, seeking information against 109 Tender Notices issued by VSSC. Since the sought information is not available in a compiled format (scattered in different files) with the custodian, CPIO vide letter(s) dated 03.01.2025 informed the same to the appellant, thereby provided the opportunity of inspection of documents available with the Public Authority on a mutually convenient date. However, without utilizing the first ever opportunity (inspection of documents), the appellant has preferred 63 First Appeals against 63 RTI applications disposed by CPIO which is referred at para 1.2

- a) On scrutiny, I have observed that the appellant has previously filed two RTI applications dated 01.11.2024 (File No(s). 3794 &3795) before the Public Authority seeking certain information related to 2 Tender Notices issued by VSSC. Since the sought information is scattered in different files, no compiled information is available with the Public Authority. Therefore, CPIO informed the same to the appellant vide letter dated 26.11.2024, thereby providing an opportunity of inspection of documents to the appellant on a mutually convenient date. Accordingly, the appellant has come and inspected the documents with the custodian in presence of other delegated/ authorized officers at Kraya Bhavan, RFF Area, VSSC. Since, the appellant has been working in VSSC (VRC Area) on contract basis, no other specific assistance was made / arranged for her to facilitate inspection or the appellant never requested for any support/assistance for executing the said inspection. As scheduled, the inspection was carried out successfully by the appellant on 07.01.2025 at Kraya Bhavan and the same has been acknowledged by the appellant in the Inspection Report dated 07.01.2025. Subsequently the same appellant preferred the above referred First Appeals seeking information against the RTI applications, (which were filed on later date referred at para.1.2 before the Public Authority) stating that the appellant is physically handicapped and hence she could not reach VSSC directly to inspect the documents. It has also come to the notice that, the appellant has been working in VSSC for many years on contract and reportedly commuting to this office without the support of any other person. Therefore, the contention of the appellant that being a physically handicapped person, she cannot reach VSSC directly to inspect documents is unfounded.
- b) In this context, the attention of the appellant is invited to Hon'ble CIC decision dated 14.12.2017 in File No. CIC/IBANK/A/2016/307530, "if the sought information is scattered over a number of files, providing the same would disproportionately divert the resources of the public authority, and therefore, the appellant is directed to inspect all relevant files on a mutually decided date/time." Therefore, the reply furnished by CPIO to inspect the documents available with the Public Authority is in order. Here, all the details sought by the appellant is available with the Public authority but not in a compiled form and is scattered in different files. Therefore, the documents made available for inspection and informed the same to the appellant that the appellant may inspect relevant documents on a mutually convenient date. However, the appellant has not availed the opportunity of inspection till date. As per Section (7) (9) of RTI Act, 2005 an information shall ordinarily be provided in the form in which it is sought unless it would disproportionately divert the resources of the public authority. In the instant case, compiling of information may disproportionately divert the sizeable manpower of the Public Authority and hence an opportunity for inspection of relevant documents which is available with the Public authority was provided to the appellant. Without using the first ever opportunity, the appellant filed the present appeals (63 nos.) referred at Para.1, which is disagreeable. It is not applicable to file subsequent RTI appeal petition(s) before the Public Authority, without utilizing the first ever opportunity provided by CPIO.

- c) Further, the very purpose of the Act is to promote accountability and transparency and not for diverting its sizeable manpower to furnish information to a particular appellant on a particular subject which only promotes the personal interest of the appellant. However, the appellant may be advised once again to inspect the documents which are available with the public authority on a mutually convenient date, at the same venue where a similar opportunity was utilized.
4. This Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the 7th day of February, 2025 accordingly.
5. A second appeal if desired against this decision may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.


(मनोज सी/Manoj C)

प्रथम अपीलीय प्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/
मुख्य नियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

1

2. CPIO, VSSC/IISU

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसन्धान संगठन/ Indian Space Research Organisation
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
तिरुवनन्तपुरम/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 695022

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपीलिय प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

Appeal No(s).57-61/2025, 117-130/2025)
(File No.VSSC/RTI/7-3823-3841)

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/
Name of Appellant :

प्रतिवादी का नाम/
Name of Respondent : **Shri Anil Kumar B**
Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. Background

filed 19 RTI applications dated 18.12.2024, seeking certain information related to 19 Tender Notices issued by VSSC, under RTI Act, 2005. The appellant sought 6 queries in each of the application such as the current status of the respective tenders, number of companies participated in the tender with their name and address etc, together with the hard copy of the order containing all the rate details quoted etc.

On perusal of the applications, CPIO has observed that the sought information is related to different Tender Notices issued by VSSC. In the reply received from the Custodian of Records, it is found that the sought information is scattered in different files and not available in a compiled format. Therefore, gathering such information from voluminous files will disproportionately divert the resources of the Public Authority. Hence, CPIO vide letter dated 03/01/2025 informed the same to the appellant and disposed all the 19 RTI applications within the stipulated time period of 30 days. Not satisfied with the reply of CPIO, the Appellant filed the following appeal petitions:

- **05 Appeals dated 27.01.2025, received on 28.01.2025 (File Nos.3823-3827)**
- **14 Appeals dated 10.02.2025 received on 12.02.2025 (File Nos.3828-3841)**

2. Prayers in the appeal

Through the appeal petitions, the appellant has stated that it is not possible for him to reach VSSC directly and to inspect the documents available with the Public Authority. Therefore, the sought information against the above referred appeals may be provided”.

3. Decision

On perusal of the appeal petitions, I have observed that the appellant filed 19 RTI applications before the Public Authority, seeking information against 19 Tender Notices issued by VSSC. Since the sought information is not available in a compiled format (scattered in different files) with the custodian, CPIO vide letter dated 03.01.2025 informed the same to the appellant and provided an opportunity of inspection of documents available with the Public Authority on a mutually convenient date/time. However, without utilizing the opportunity for inspection of documents, the appellant has preferred the said 19 First Appeal Petitions.

- a) In this context, it is noted that the Hon'ble CIC in its decision dated 14.12.2017 in File No. CIC/IBANK/A/2016/307530 observed that, "if the sought information is scattered over a number of files, providing the same would disproportionately divert the resources of the public authority, and therefore, the appellant is directed to inspect all relevant files on a mutually decided date/time." Therefore, the reply furnished by CPIO to inspect the documents available with the Public Authority is in order. Here, all the details sought by the appellant is available with the Public authority but not in a compiled form. Therefore, the said position was informed to the appellant advising to inspect relevant documents on a mutually convenient date. As per Section (7) (9) of RTI Act, 2005 an information shall ordinarily be provided in the form in which it is sought unless it would disproportionately divert the resources of the public authority. In the instant case, compiling of information will disproportionately divert the sizeable manpower of the Public Authority and hence an opportunity for inspection of relevant documents which is available with the Public authority was provided to the appellant. Further, the very purpose of the Act is to promote accountability and transparency and not for diverting its sizeable manpower to furnish information to a particular appellant on a particular subject which only promotes the personal interest of the appellant.
- b) From the RTI application, it is also found that the appellant, who is a resident of Thiruvananthapuram (as per the address furnished, where, VSSC is situated) can suitably avail the opportunity of inspection. **However, if the applicant has inconvenience or difficulty in visiting VSSC, it is hereby advised that he may nominate another person who is an Indian citizen with due authorization to visit VSSC and inspect the documents sought for on behalf of him.**
4. This Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the ~~27~~²⁷ day of February, 2025 accordingly.
5. A second appeal if desired against this decision may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.



(मनोज सी/Manoj S)

प्रथम अपीलिय प्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/
मुख्य नियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

1.

2. CPIO, VSSC/IISU

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
भारतीय अन्तरीक्ष अनुसन्धान संगठन/ Indian Space Research Organisation
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
तिरुवनन्तपुरम/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695022

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपीलिय प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही
PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005
Appeal No.131/2025 (File No.VSSC/RTI/7-3992)

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/ :
Name of Appellant

प्रतिवादी का नाम/ : Shri Anil Kumar B
Name of Respondent Sr. Head, PGA
VSSC

1. Background

filed application dated 02.02.2025 had sought certain information in connection with the DoPT OM A-27012/02/2017-Estt(AL) dated 17.07.2018 pertaining to Children Education Allowance in 5 queries. CPIO disseminated all the information which is disclosable under the provisions of RTI Act, 2005 to the appellant vide letter dated 27.02.2025. Being not satisfied with the reply to the query No.3 of the application, the appellant preferred the First Appeal dated 02.02.2025 before the First Appellate Authority (FAA), VSSC alleging that CPIO has not provided the complete information to the second part of query No.3 sought for in the application.

2. Prayers in the appeal

The appellant alleged that CPIO has not provided the complete information to the second part of query No.3 and requested to consider the following point and to provide the sought information.

1. The authority/guidelines for obtaining a joint declaration

Contd..2/-

3. DECISION

On perusal of the facts brought before me, I have observed that the appellant filed the above referred RTI application before this Public Authority seeking information in connection with the DoPT OM A-27012/02/2017-Estt(AL) dated 17.07.2018 pertaining to Children Education Allowance.

a. The appellant alleged in his appeal that, the reply furnished by CPIO against the query No.3 is incomplete and requested to provide the authority/guidelines for obtaining joint declaration if the spouse of the employee is also employee is also eligible for CEA/serving in any Central Govt. organization/PSU.

b. While perusing the reply provided by the CPIO, it is understood that the applicant is satisfied with the information provided expect for query No. 3 of the application. In query No.3 the appellant has sought the "*additional documents which are to submitted if spouse of the employee is also eligible/serving in any Central Govt. organization/PSU. If so, furnish the formats and guidelines/authority to submit such documents?*." In reply to that, the CPIO has already provided the format of joint declaration to be submitted by the employee and spouse for availing Children Education Allowance/Hostel subsidy in case both the spouses are Government Servant. It is also evident in the joint declaration that, it should be attested by Head of Department. Now through the appeal dated 01.03.2025, the appellant has specifically sought the guidelines for obtaining the joint declaration for availing Children Education Allowance/Hostel subsidy in case both the spouses are Government Servant. In this regard, it is to be noted that, the format of joint declaration for availing CEA to be obtained from the employee in case his/her spouse is working in another Central Government Orgainsation/Department, where facility for reimbursement of CEA is available, has been prepared as per the **Internal decision of the Centre** for ensuring the point 2(g) of the DoPT OM A-27012/02/2017-Estt(AL).dated 17.07.2018 i.e., *in case both the spouses are Governments servants, only one of them can avail reimbursement under CEA and Hostal Subsidy.*

c. The CPIO has provided all the information in response to the queries raised by the appellant, in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005. However, through the appeal, the appellant has raised a specific concern regarding the guidelines or authority for obtaining a joint declaration. Furnishing the authority for a format implies the rationale for the same and hence can be deemed outside the purview of RTI Act 2005. A joint declaration for spouses working in Central Government organizations is an internal policy of the Centre which otherwise could potentially lead to double benefits. Therefore, the appeal raised by the appellant is not tenable.

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4. Accordingly, this Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the ^{28th} day of March, 2025.
5. A second appeal, if desired, against this decision may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.


(मनोज सी/Manoj C)

प्रथम अपीलिय प्रधिकारी/First Appellate Authority
मुख्य नियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

1.

2. CPIO, VSSC/IISU

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
भारतीय अन्तरिक्ष अनुसन्धान संगठन/ Indian Space Research Organisation
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
तिरुवनन्तपुरम/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695022

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपीलिय प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही
PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005
Appeal No. **132/2025** (File No. VSSC/RTI/7/3699)

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/ :
Name of Appellant

प्रतिवादी का नाम/ : **Shri Anil Kumar B**
Name of Respondent Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. Background

submitted an RTI Application dated 25.06.2024 seeking certain information under RTI Act, 2005. The appellant (Shri Sajeendran, Scientist/Engineer-SD, who joined the Centre on 05.02.2010 and resigned on 03.05.2019) sought the following information related to the resignation tendered by him.

- i. Reason for not providing gratuity till date to the appellant as per Gratuity Act, 1972.

Since the appellant has fulfilled clause (b) of section 4 of Gratuity Act, 1972 with a continuous service of 5 years, furnish;

- ii. (a) Name of Accounts Officer of VSSC who has overruled the Gratuity Act 1972.
- ii. (b) Reason for not providing appellant's Gratuity

On perusal of the application, CPIO has observed that the appellant was an employee of VSSC who resigned from the Centre during the year 2019. Further, on gathering relevant information from the Custodian of Records, CPIO vide letter dated 23.07.2024 disseminated the information pertaining to the queries. **After elapse of 7 months of the reply furnished by CPIO**, the Appellant preferred First Appeal dated 03.03.2025 before the First Appellate Authority (FAA), VSSC alleging that CPIO has provided incomplete, misleading or false information and requested to clarify the following:

2. Prayers in the appeal

- i. *The Rules cited by ISRO, Specifically Rule-17 of the CCS (Payment of Gratuity under NPS) Rules, 2021 are not applicable in the instant case as the appellant was relieved on 3rd may 2019, whereas these rules were notified only on 23rd September 2021 and came in to effect from that date.*
- ii. *In Gratuity Act 1972, no specific mention is there that Govt. Servants of ISRO are not payable with gratuity.*

3. Decision

On perusal of the application, I have observed that the appellant filed RTI application dated 25.06.2024 seeking information related to non-receipt of gratuity on account of the resignation tendered by the appellant during the year 2019. Subsequently, CPIO gathered relevant information from the Custodian of Records and disseminated the information to the appellant vide letter dated 23.07.2024.

- (a) Through query No.1, the appellant sought the reason for not providing gratuity till date as per Gratuity Act, 1972. Against this, CPIO has furnished that the **terminal benefits payable to employees who superannuated/resigned from the service of VSSC/ISRO is governed by CCS (Pension) Rules 2021 and CCS (Implementation of National Pension System) Rules 2021. As per Rule 14 of CCS (NPS) Rules 2021 and Rule 17 of CCS (Payment of Gratuity under NPS) Rules 2021, resignation from service entails forfeiture of past service hence no gratuity is admissible on resignation. During the relief of the appellant, the CCS (NPS) Rules 2021 and CCS (Payment of Gratuity under NPS) Rules 2021 were not come in to force and hence the terminal benefits on account of the resignation tendered by the appellant was processed on the basis of Rule-26 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 (later amended in 2021).** Since, the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 is now referred as CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021, the same alone has been referred in the reply furnished by CPIO. Besides, there is no change in the payment of gratuity for a resigned employee under Rule 17 of CCS (Payment of Gratuity under NPS) Rules 2021, which came in to existence, after the resignation of the appellant. Therefore, the reply furnished by CPIO against query No.(i) of the RTI application needs this clarification. In addition, the appellant has stated that he has fulfilled clause (b) of section 4 of Gratuity Act, 1972 with a continuous service of 5 years and therefore requested to provide the reason for not providing gratuity. Against the query, CPIO has clearly furnished that Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 is meant to provide gratuity to employees engaged in factories, mines, oil fields, plantations, ports, railway company etc. **and not applicable to Central Government employees governed by any other rules for providing payment of Gratuity. As briefed above, the appellant was a Central Government employee, governed by other rules for providing payment of Gratuity, the said Gratuity Act, 1972 was not applicable to him and the same has informed by CPIO.** Hence the reply furnished by CPIO against query No.(ii) is in order.
- (b) Here, the appellant may note that, as per Sec-19(1) of the RTI Act, 2005, any person who, does not receive a decision within the time specified in Subsection(1) or Clause (a) of Sub-section(3) of Sec-7, or is aggrieved by a decision of the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, within thirty days from the expiry of such period or from the receipt of such decision prefer an appeal to such officer who is in senior rank to the Central Public Information Officer, as the case may be in each public authority; provided that such officer may admit the appeal after the expiry of the period of thirty days, if he or she, is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time. **In the instant case, the appellant has filed the first appeal after elapse of 7 months from the date of receipt of reply from CPIO and has not mentioned any specific reasons which prevented the appellant from filing first appeal within the stipulated time of 30 days of receipt of the information from CPIO or any public interest in raising the appeal petition.** In view of the above facts, I find that the appeal is time barred.

4. Accordingly, this Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the ^{28th} day of March, 2025.
5. A second appeal if desired against this decision may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.



(मनोज सी/Manoj C)

प्रथम अपीलीय प्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/
मुख्य नियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

1.

2. CPIO, VSSC/IISU

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
भारतीय अन्तरीक्ष अनुसन्धान संगठन/ Indian Space Research Organisation
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
तिरुवनन्तपुरम/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695022

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपीलिय प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही
PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005
Appeal No.133/2025 (File No.VSSC/RTI/7/3984)

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/ :
Name of Appellant

प्रतिवादी का नाम/ : **Shri Anil Kumar B**
Name of Respondent Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. Background

an RTI Application dated 21.01.2025 seeking certain information with reference to an Office Communication No. VSSC/EST/E/PEN/VS26298 dated 16.01.2025 issued by EST/VSSC in 7 queries under RTI Act, 2005.

On perusal of the application, CPIO observed that furnishing information against the queries requires much more time than usual and hence, vide letter dated 18.02.2025 CPIO informed the appellant that the sought information will be disseminated soon after gathering relevant information from the custodian of records. Subsequently, CPIO vide letter dated 05.03.2025 disseminated the available information.

Not satisfied with the reply of CPIO, the Appellant preferred First Appeal dated 11.03.2025 alleging that CPIO has provided incomplete, misleading or false information against query No.3 of the RTI application has requested to provide the following:

2. Prayers in the appeal

Provide the copy of revised pension calculation paper with details from the date of promotion of the appellant in the post of Scientist/Engineer-G from 10.02.2006 (ie; against query No.3 of the RTI application). The appellant has also stated that the information furnished against the said query was on the basis of the date of retirement.

3. Decision

On perusal of the application, I have observed that the appellant filed an RTI application dated 21.01.2025 seeking certain information with reference to an Office Communication dated 16.01.2025 issued by EST/VSSC in 7 queries under RTI Act, 2005. Subsequently, CPIO gathered relevant information from the Custodian of Records and disseminated the available information vide letter dated 05.03.2025. However, on receipt of the reply the appellant has preferred the present appeal, raising contention against the information furnished towards query No.3 of the RTI application.

- (a) Through query No.3 of the RTI application, the appellant sought the Copy of revised pension calculation paper with details, from the date of promotion to Sci/Engr-G. Against this, CPIO has furnished a copy of Pension Revision Order (as **Annexure- B of the reply**) based on DOS letter No.A.12020/5/2018-I dated 06.01.2025, in compliance of the Common Judgment dated 30.05.2024 of the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in OP(CAT) Nos. 199/2018,220/2018 and 313/2019.
- (b) On scrutiny of Pension Revision Order furnished by CPIO, it is found that the appellant retired on 31.12.2007 as Sci/Engr-G, (which was the post held by Shri Surendra at the time of retirement). The prevailing pay commission when the appellant retired was Fifth CPC and on implementation of 6th CPC in the year 2008, the scale of pay had been revised to Rs.37400-67000 (GP-10000) (furnished at Sl. No.5 of the Pension Revision Order) and the basic pension became Rs.30,750/- per month (Sl.No.7 of the Pension Revision order) . Further, on implementation of 7th CPC, the Scale of Pay revised to 144000-218200 (L-14) of the pay matrix and hence the revised Basic Pay from the year 2016 became Rs.162300/-. Accordingly, the revised pension with effect from 01.01.2016 is Rs.81,150/- (Sl. Nos. 11 & 12 of the Pension Revision Order furnished by CPIO). From the above facts, it is clear that the reply furnished by CPIO against query No.3 of the application is true to facts. Moreover, the amount of Pension is calculated on the basis of (50%) emoluments drawn on the date of retirement/ average emoluments of last 10 months of service, whichever is beneficial for the employee and not on the date of promotion as cited by the appellant. Therefore, the allegation of the appellant that CPIO has provided incomplete, misleading or false information against query No.3 of the RTI application is invalid.
- (c) In the instant case, CPIO has provided the exact reply against query No.3 of the RTI application, which needs no further clarification or to provide copy of pension revision order again against the appeal petition. In view of the above facts, I do not find any merit in the appeal petition brought before me.
4. Accordingly, this Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the ^{9th} day of April, 2025.
5. A second appeal if desired against this decision may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.



(मनोज सी/Manoj C)

प्रथम अपीलीय प्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/
मुख्य नियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

1.

2. CPIO, VSSC/IISU

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपीलीय प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही
PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005
Appeal No **139/2025** (File No.VSSC/RTI/7-4046)

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/
Name of Appellant

:

प्रतिवादी का नाम/
Name of Respondent

Shri Anil Kumar B
Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. Background

, filed an RTI application vide letter dated 29.03.2025 (received in this office on 01.04.2025) seeking certain information under RTI Act, 2005 (**F/A**). The appellant sought information in three distinctive queries, each accompanied by additional sub-queries. Query No:1 concerns about the Cadre and Review details of light vehicle drivers which is followed by additional sub-queries (i) Total Sanctioned strength of light vehicle drivers in VSSC as per approved cadre structure (ii) the last cadre review conducted for light vehicle drivers (iii) New divisions that have been formed after the last cadre review. Query No:2 regards to Transport Vehicle Accidents/Incidents subsequently followed by additional queries (i) How many transport vehicle accidents/ incidents have occurred in VSSC over the last 20 years. (ii) The disposal procedure followed for the vehicles involved in these accidents/incidents specifically, to provide the details on whether the vehicles were repaired, auctioned or written off. (iii) Punishments imposed on divers involved in the accidents including whether they were financial (such as salary deductions or fines) or disciplinary (such as suspension, termination or warnings) issued. Query No:3 pertains to the Cases of unnatural death and suicide in the organization, which are followed by additional queries (i) How many unnatural deaths, including suicides have been reported at VSSC in the last 20 years. (ii) Out of the total numbers in 3(i) above, how many were from the transport division and provide details including designation of the deceased employees.

Prayers in the Appeal

2. Being dissatisfied with the response furnished by CPIO against queries numbered 3(i) and 3(ii) related to the details of unnatural death and suicide of employees in VSSC, the appellant has preferred the first appeal dated 14.05.2025 (received in this office on 15.05.2025) seeking a clarification on the reply furnished by CPIO. The appellant has inturn raised a contention that the sought information directly relates to the internal health, safety and support system for employees within the organization and that the organization is expected to maintain a data on the subject and any denial of this data totally undermines the accountability of the organization and shows its apathy towards staff welfare.

Decision

3. On scrutiny of the facts being presented before me pertaining to the appeal petition, I have observed that the appellant is seeking certain information that concerns the number of unnatural death and suicide of the employees in VSSC. The appellant has also sought on the details of the designation of such deceased employees as well. Considering the peculiar nature of the query regarding the unnatural death and suicide of employees in VSSC, it is pertinent to notice that in accordance with the provisions of RTI Act, 2005, any information that relates to the personal information are exempted from disclosure to public under Section 8(1)(j) of the Act. ***The reasons for an employee's death mainly the details like cause of death or any related information are generally considered personal information and therefore is protected under the RTI Act, 2005 by the above mentioned section. (CIC/DS/A/2012/001283 dated 10.01.2013) (F/F).***

However, in the event of an employee's death while in service or after retirement, care is taken to document the same in their service book and in their individual pension files respectively; a vital record for streamlined processing of subsequent actions such as disbursement of family pension, death gratuity, and the potential for compassionate appointments. Hence, the appellant cannot insist that the desired information be given in a manner in which he seeks and single mindedly anticipate that the lack of desired information in a compiled structure corroborate a lack of record keeping and shows an apparent apathy of the Government organization towards the internal health, safety or welfare of its employees, as details with respect to the events that occur in the life of an employee is treated on a case-by-case basis and is being recorded according to its own merit and circumstances. Further, the details sought by the appellant covers a larger tenure of around 20 years, which puts an undue strain on the limited resources of the public authority, which has to assemble the information that is scattered over several files. It is stated that as per Section 7(9) of RTI Act if the information sought is not available in the compiled form it is exempted from disclosure as the compiling would disproportionately divert the resources of the public authority.

Further, the very purpose of the Act is to promote accountability and transparency and not for diverting its sizeable manpower to furnish information to a particular appellant on a particular subject which only promotes the personal interest of the appellant. The disclosure of the same doesn't commensurate a larger benefit of the public interest as well.

4. This Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the day of 13th June, 2025 accordingly.
5. A second appeal if desired against this decision may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.


(मनोज सी/Manoj C)

प्रथमअपीलीयप्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/
मुख्यनियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

1. CPIO, VSSC/IISU

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपीलिय प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही
PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005
Appeal No. 142/2025 (File No.VSSC/RTI/7-4170)

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/
Name of Appellant

प्रतिवादी का नाम/ : Suresh K
Name of Respondent Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. **Background**

has filed an application dated 03.07.2025 seeking following information under RTI Act, 2005.

1. Refer Copy of Daily Order in CAT Ernakulam CP91/2018 dated 14.11.2024 where Counsel for DOS seeks one month time for implementing the order.
 - i. Kindly provide a copy of the letter sent by DOS to obtain opinion from the Ministry of Law and Justice after High Court dismissed DOS writ petition on 30.05.2024 and 14.11.2024.
 - ii. Kindly provide a copy of the reply received from the Ministry of Law and Justice for the above letter.
 - iii. If no letter was sent by DOS to the Ministry of Law and Justice between 30.05.2024 and 14.11.2024, kindly confirm that too.
2. Refer copy of the Review petition Affidavit in Kerala High Court dated May 2025.
 - i. Kindly provide a copy of the letter received from Central Government Counsel dated 25.06.2024 providing his opinion.
 - ii. Kindly provide copy of decision of the Ministry of Law and Justice conveyed to the Counsel through the letter dated 17.04.2025.
 - iii. Kindly provide a copy of the letter sent by DOS to obtain opinions from the Ministry of Law and Justice in 2024/2025 after Kerala High Court dismissed DOS Writ petition on 30.05.2024.

Shri Rajan

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- iv. Kindly provide a copy of letter sent by DOS to obtain opinion from DoPPW in 2024/2025 after Kerala High Court dismissed DOS Writ petition on 30.05.2024.
- v. Kindly provide a copy of the reply received from DoPPW for the above communication.
- vi. Kindly provide a copy of a letter sent by DOS to obtain opinion from DoE in 2024/2025 after Keral High Court dismissed DOS Writ petition on 30.05.2024.
- vii. Kindly provide a copy of the reply received from DoE for the above communication.

Since the sought information against query Nos. 1(i) to 1(iii) and 2(iii) to 2(vii) pertains to DOS, the same were transferred to CPIO, DOS under Section 6(3) of the RTI Act, for furnishing information directly to the applicant vide letter dated 16.07.2025. Further, the Review Petition filed by VSSC was an ongoing case before the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala at that time and the Legal opinion obtained for such cases is an information obtained through fiduciary relationship, CPIO denied the information under section 8(1)(e) of RTI Act, 2005 vide letter dated 16.07.2025. Aggrieved by the decision of CPIO, the Appellant has preferred the present appeal dated 26.07.2025 before the undersigned.

2. Prayers in the appeal

In the decision No. CIC/SM/A/2009/001904-AT dated 18.11.2010, the Hon'ble CIC stated that:

- “4. the Appellant has argued that the fiduciary information prohibited by Section 8(1)(e) of the RTI Act related only to the advice or opinion received by the bank from its Advocates and Counsels and could not cover the opinion of its own Legal department furnished.*
- 5. The applicant is, doubtless, right in claiming that the legal opinion given by an officer of the public authority does not stand on the same footings as the advice tendered to public authority by an Advocate or Counsels. Section 8(1)(e), therefore cannot cover the former.”*

Thus, copy of decision of the Ministry of law and Justice conveyed to the Counsel through the letter dated 17.04.2025 cannot be exempted from disclosure under section 8(1)(e) of the RTI Act, 2005. Therefore, the Appellant has request the FAA to direct CPIO to provide a copy of the decision of the Ministry of Law and Justice conveyed to the Counsel through the letter dated 17.04.2025.

3. निर्णय/DECISION

- a. On perusal of the records brought before me, it is observed that the Appellant has not raised any contention against the decision of CPIO on the reply furnished against query No. 2(i). As per the aforesaid CIC decision, the advice/opinion received from the Legal Section of the Department does not come under the purview of Section 8(1)(e) of RTI Act. However, the Central Government Counsel is not an employee of the Department. They are engaged by the Government on tenure basis for attending various Civil litigations in different courts on behalf of Government of India and for which fee will be paid to them. Thus, the Central Government Counsels are like advocates to the Department and fiduciary relationship exists between the Department and the Counsel. Therefore, the opinion given by the Counsel could not be provided to an applicant under RTI Act and hence the action of CPIO on query No. 2(i) is in order.
 - b. Regarding query No. 2(ii), the letter dated 17.04.2025 was sent to the Central Government Counsel for conveying the decision of the Ministry of Law and Justice and also to seek the opinion on the Review petition to be filed by the Department, which was an ongoing case at the time of seeking information. Revealing the information may compromise the Department position in the case. Moreover, the correspondence of the Department (client) with Counsel also comes under the ambit of fiduciary relationship. Therefore, the act of CPIO in not furnishing the information citing Section 8(1)(e) of RTI Act is in order.
4. This Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the 26th day of August, 2025.
 5. A second appeal if desired against this decision may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.



(मनोज सी/Manoj C)

प्रथम अपीलिय प्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/
मुख्य नियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

2. CPIO, VSSC/IISU

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपीलिय प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

Appeal No. 146 /2025 (File No.VSSC/RTI/7-4220 (L)

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/ :
Name of Appellant

प्रतिवादी का नाम/ : Suresh K
Name of Respondent Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. **Background**

has filed an RTI application with Registration No. VSSCI/R/E/25/00244 dated 17.08.2025 seeking following information under RTI Act, 2005.

- a) How many applications forms were submitted categories by UR/SC/OBC/ESM for following post under advertisement No. VSSC 334 dated 31.05.2025 Viz Technician-B (Machinist, Turner, Fitter trade). Please provide details of data for each post. For example: if total number of applications for Technician-B machinist is 100, then category wise distribution could be SC:20/Open:40/ESM:30/OBC:10 please provide similar data for each post as well.
- b) Please share whether the Written Test is going to be OMR based or CBT based in Thiruvananthapuram or State wise as said in application.

Prayers in the appeal

Not satisfied with the reply of CPIO, the Appellant filed an appeal dated 18.09.2025 before the undersigned alleging that the information sought for was not received within the prescribed time limit and submitted the below mentioned queries.

- a) How many applications forms were submitted categories by UR/SC/OBC/ESM for following post under advertisement No. VSSC 334 dated 31.05.2025 Viz Technician-B (Machinist, Turner, Fitter trade). Please provide details of data for each post. For example: if total number of

applications for Technician-B machinist is 100, then category wise distribution could be SC:20/Open:40/ESM:30/OBC:10 please provide similar data for each post as well.

- b) Please share whether the Written Test is going to be OMR based or CBT based in Thiruvananthapuram or State wise as said in application.
- c) Please provide details in which month Technician –B exam is conducted.

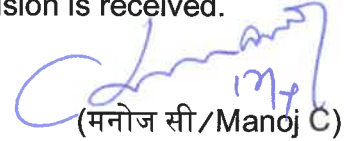
निर्णय/DECISION

On perusal of the records brought before me, it is observed that, RTI application had been disposed of within the stipulated time frame. Hence, the ground for appeal raised by appellant is unfounded.

Further, it is noted that, the appellant, vide appeal dated 18.09.2025 has sought for an additional information, not covered in the RTI query dated 17.08.2025 viz "*Please provide the details in which month Technician-B exam is conducted*". In this regard, it is informed that, as per the Hon'ble CIC decision dated 28.01.2014 (Case No.CIC/LS/A/2013/001477-SS), "an information seeker cannot be allowed to expand the scope of his RTI query at appeal stage". Accordingly, the additional query raised by the appellant cannot be entertained at this stage.

This Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the 17th day of October, 2025.

A second appeal, if desired against this decision, may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.



(मनोज सी/Manoj C)

प्रथम अपीलीय प्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/
मुख्यनियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To: _____
1.

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपीलिय प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005
Appeal No. **147/2025** (File No.VSSC/RTI/7-4228)

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/
Name of Appellant

प्रतिवादी का नाम/ : Suresh K
Name of Respondent : Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. **Background**

has filed an RTI application dated 26.08.2025 seeking following information under RTI Act, 2005.

- i. How many employees of VSSC of the Cadre Scientist/Engineer-SG or equivalent have attended Chintan Shivir 2025 meeting held at Visakhaparnam.
- ii. Whether travel allowance is provided for these employees for to and fro air travel. Whether the tickers are booked by VSSC authorities or by employees themselves and reimbursed later. Please mention the number of people travelled by train.
- iii. For how many days the Chintan Shivir meeting/conference was held.
- iv. What is the amount of Daily Allowance (DA or any allowance) that was given to Scientist/Engineer-SG who attended the above mentioned meeting. For how many days DA was given (median value)

The sought information as collected from the custodian of records were furnished to the Applicant by CPIO vide letter dated 16.09.2025.

2. **Prayers in the appeal**

The Applicant was satisfied with the reply furnished by the CPIO against all the queries except for the query No.4. Against query No.4, the reply furnished was "DA for 4 days -Rs.5000". The Applicant filed an appeal dated 21.10.2025 before the undersigned seeking clarification for the reply furnished against query No.4, that the mentioned amount of Rs.5000 was for four days or Rs.5000 per day totalling to Rs.20000.

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3. निर्णय/DECISION

- a. On perusal of the records brought before me, it is observed that, in the RTI application the Appellant has sought for the amount of Daily Allowance (DA or any allowance) that was given to Scientist/Engineer-SG who attended the above mentioned meeting and for how many days DA was given. Both the information was provided by the CPIO vide letter dated 16.09.2025. Therefore, the reply furnished by the CPIO is in order. In the appeal, the Appellant was sought clarification on the reply furnished by the CPIO against query No. 4, as per RTI Act. Accordingly, the Appellant is hereby informed that the "Total DA amount given to each Sci/Engr-SG who attended the Chintan Shivir 2025 conducted at Visakhapatnam for 4 days is Rs.5000/- i.e., at the rate Rs.1250/- per day."
4. This Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the ^{12th} day of November, 2025.
5. A second appeal, if desired against this decision, may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.



(मनोज सी/Manoj C)

प्रथम अपीलिय प्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/
मुख्य नियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

1.

2. CPIO, VSSC/IISU

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपील्य प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही
PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005
Appeal No 148/2025 (File No.VSSC/RTI/7-4331/4332)

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/ :
Name of Appellant

प्रतिवादी का नाम/ : **Suresh K**
Name of Respondent Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. **Background**

vide two
RTI applications dated 18.10.2025 (received by CPIO on 21.10.2025) has sought information regarding residing of Fire Service Personnel in the residential quarters or Estate management of the employees in VSSC. After collecting relevant information from the custodian of records, CPIO vide letter dated 18.11.2025 has furnished the information to the Appellant and disposed of on 19.11.2025. However, the Appellant has filed an appeal dated 18.11.2025 before the undersigned.

2. **Prayers in the appeal**

The Appellant alleged that no response was received by him against his RTI applications within the time limit.

3. **निर्णय/DECISION**

On perusal of the records brought before me it is observed that CPIO has furnished the reply vide letter dated 18.11.2025. A copy of the reply was uploaded in the RTI portal and disposed of the RTI application on 19.11.2025. CPIO received the RTI applications on 21.10.2025 as the preceding three days were holidays on accounts of Saturday, Sunday and Diwali. Hence, the action of CPIO is in order and no delay occurred in the instant case. Since the reply has already been furnished, the appeal petition is closed.

Contd...2/-

4. This Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the ^{19th}..... day of December, 2025.
5. A second appeal, if desired against this decision, may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.



(मनोज सी/Manoj C)

प्रथमअपीलीयप्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/
मुख्यनियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

1.

2. CPIO, VSSC/IISU

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपीलिय प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005
Appeal No **149/2025** (File No.VSSC/RTI/7-4338)

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/ :
Name of Appellant

प्रतिवादी का नाम/ : **Suresh K**
Name of Respondent Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. **Background**

vide application dated 23.10.2025 (received by CPIO on transfer from CPIO, DOS on 24.10.2025) has sought information related to the number of employees initially appointed as Technician-B in VSSC and became Technical Assistant through Special Review by acquiring Diploma in Engineering while in service and out of these, how many of them already had a Diploma before joining VSSC. After collecting relevant information from the custodian of records, CPIO vide letter dated 20.11.2025 has furnished the information to the Appellant and disposed of the application on 20.11.2025. However, the Appellant has filed an appeal dated 03.12.2025 before the undersigned.

2. **Prayers in the appeal**

The Appellant alleged that no response was received against her RTI application within the time limit.

3. **निर्णय/DECISION**

On perusal of the records brought before me it is observed that CPIO has furnished the reply vide letter dated 20.11.2025 well within the time limit of 30 days from the date of receipt of the application. A copy of the reply was uploaded in the RTI portal and disposed of the RTI application on 20.11.2025. Therefore, the action of CPIO is in order and no delay occurred in the instant case. Since the reply has already been furnished, the appeal petition is closed.

4. This Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the 19th day of December, 2025.
5. A second appeal, if desired against this decision, may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.



(मनोज सी/Manoj C)

प्रथमअपीलीयप्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/

मुख्यनियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

1.

2. CPIO, VSSC/IISU

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपीलिय प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005
Appeal No.02/2025 (File No.VSSC/RTI/7-3846)

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/
Name of Appellant

प्रतिवादी का नाम/
Name of Respondent : Shri Anil Kumar B
Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. Background

vide application dated 20.12.2024 sought certain information (3 queries including 7 sub-queries) related to OA No. 180/00137/2016 & CP No. 91/2018 (Daily Order dtd. 14.11.2024 filed before Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal, Ernakulam and OP (CAT) No. 199/2018 (Daily Order dated 30.05.2024) filed before Hon'ble High Court of Kerala, under RTI Act, 2005.

On receipt of information from the Custodian of Records, CPIO vide letter dated 15.01.2025, informed the appellant that information against query Nos.1 and 3(b)(vii) & 2 could not be disseminated as the subject matter is under consideration before the Hon'ble CAT, Ernakulam/Hon'ble High Court of Kerala respectively. In addition, it was also informed to the appellant that information sought against query Nos. 3(b) (i to vi) of the RTI application is not held by this public authority and hence the said queries are transferred vide letter dated 15.01.2025 to CPIO, DOS under Sec-6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005. Accordingly, CPIO vide letter dated 05.01.2025 disposed the RTI application. Not satisfied with the reply of CPIO, the appellant preferred first appeal dated 22.01.2025 (received on 23.01.2025) before the FAA, VSSC raising certain allegations.

2. Prayers in the appeal

- The Appellant alleged that CPIO has not provided information against (query No.1 & 3(b) (vii)) of the RTI application, the queries are follows:
 - ❖ The copy of letter sent by VSSC/DOS to DoPPW and DoE during 2018
 - ❖ File noting sent for approval to Director, VSSC during 2024 for implementation of CAT Order on disposal of OP CAT No.199/2018 (query No.3 (b) (vii)). The appellant has also stated that DOS (Learned Standing Counsel sought one more month for implementing the Order). Therefore, refusal of the reply by CPIO stating that the matter is under consideration is wrong.
- The appellant has also alleged that "CPIO has confirmed, the information against query No(s). 3(b) (i) to (vii) is available with DOS," and therefore, CPIO may be directed to collect and provide the information to the appellant.

3. Decision

On perusal of the records brought before me, it is observed that the appellant has raised 03 queries (including 7 sub-queries) against OA No. 180/00137/2016 & CP No. 91/2018 (Daily Order dtd. 14.11.2024) filed before Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal, Ernakulam and OP (CAT) No. 199/2018 (Daily Order dated 30.05.2024) filed before Hon'ble High Court of Kerala, under RTI Act, 2005.

- a) Through query No.1, the appellant sought the copy of letter sent by VSSC/DOS to DoPPW & DoE in 2018 for obtaining legal opinion w.r.t the reference cited at para 1. Since the matter is under consideration of the Hon'ble CAT, the sought information cannot be disseminated and hence the reply furnished by CPIO is found in order.
- b) Likewise, through query No. 3 (b) (vii) the appellant sought the copy of file noting sent for approval to Director, VSSC during 2024 for implementation of CAT Order on disposal of OP CAT No.199/2018 (query No.3 (b) (vii)). The appellant has also stated that DOS (Learned Standing Counsel) sought one more month for implementing the Order). Therefore, refusal of the reply by CPIO, stating that the matter is under consideration is wrong. As referred at para no. 1, both queries (1& 3 (b) (vii)) sought information pertaining to the subject matter which is pending before Hon'ble CAT, Ernakulam and hence the same not disseminated by CPIO at this stage. Once a decision is passed, same will be available in records. Since no such decision is available in records the same cannot be disseminated by CPIO. Therefore, the reply furnished by CPIO is in order.
- c) Further, the appellant raised 7 sub-queries under the reference 3(b) which are related to Daily Order dated 14.11.2024 of Hon'ble CAT, Ernakulam in CP No.91/2018. Since, the information sought against query Nos. (i) to (vi) are not available with the Public Authority, all those queries are transferred under Sec-6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005 to CPIO, DOS for furnishing information directly to the applicant. As per RTI Act, 2005, if an application is received before a Public Authority and the Public Authority finds that the, sought information is under the control of another Public Authority, then the former Public Authority has to transfer the relevant queries /RTI application to concerned Public Authority under Sec. 6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005, duly intimating the same to the applicant. Here, CPIO has transferred the said queries and informed the same to the appellant vide letter dated 15.01.2025
- d) As per Hon'ble CIC decision dated 18.08.2010 (File No. CIC/LS/A/2010/001187), "CPIO can supply only that information which is available in the official records & which is permissible to be disclosed under the provisions of RTI Act". In the instant case, query raised at Sl.No.1, 3b(vii) of the application, cannot be disseminated by CPIO, as the subject matter is under consideration before Hon'ble CAT/Hon'ble High Court of Kerala. Hence the reply furnished by CPIO is intact.
- e) *Moreover, the attention of the appellant is invited to Sec-6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005, such that "it is beyond the scope of the Act for a public authority to create information. Collection of information, parts of which are available with different public authorities, would amount to creation of information which a public authority under the Act is not required to do." Apart from that, Sec-6(3)(i) of the act stipulates that a person makes an application to a public authority for some information which concerns some another public authority, in such a case, the PIO receiving the application should transfer the application to the concerned public authority under intimation to the applicant. Here, CPIO has transferred the queries as per the provisions of the Act and informed the same to the appellant. Therefore, the request to collect and furnish information against query Nos.3 (b) (i) to (vi) of the RTI application is invalid as per the provision of the act.*

f) In spite of the above, the appellant may also note that if a person who is a litigant in a particular case is seeking copies or any other documents from a Public Authority, and which is pending before a Court or Tribunal, he/she may get the same from the respective Court/ Tribunal itself by abiding with the rule laid down by the respective authorities. As per the provisions of RTI Act, 2005 (Sec-22) it is to submit that RTI Act is a general law made by the Parliament with the avowed objective of dissemination of information and ensuring transparency in the functioning of the Public Authorities and in view of non-obstante clause of Sec-22 of the Act, in case of any conflict regarding "access to information from public authorities", the provisions of RTI Act will prevail over any other law. Here, CPIO furnished the available information against the queries and transferred the rest of the queries to the concerned public authority, which is true to facts and there is no inconsistency between the authorities in obtaining information. Therefore, there is no necessity for RTI Act to override in this appeal and the reply furnished by CPIO is exact.

4. This Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the 7th day of February, 2025 accordingly.
5. A second appeal if desired against this decision may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.


(मनोज सी/Manoj C)

प्रथम अपीलीय प्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/
मुख्य नियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

1.

2. CPIO, VSSC/IISU

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपीलिय प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005
Appeal No 3/2026 (File No.VSSC/RTI/7-4406, 4412, 4413(O))

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/
Name of Appellant

प्रतिवादी का नाम/
Name of Respondent

: Suresh K
Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. **Background**

vide applications dated 12.02.2026, 11.02.2026, and 12.02.2026 (received by CPIO on 13.02.2026, 19.02.2026, and 19.02.2026 respectively) has sought same information related to the implementation of Second cadre Review in five queries. After collecting relevant information from the custodian of records, CPIO vide letter dated 18.03.2026 has furnished the information to the Appellant and disposed of the application on 19.03.2026. However, before receiving of the reply, the Appellant has filed an appeal dated 16.03.2026 before the undersigned.

2. **Prayers in the appeal**

The Appellant has requested to direct CPIO for furnishing the requested information.

3. **निर्णय/DECISION**

On perusal of the records brought before me, it is observed that CPIO had to collect the requested information from various custodian of records and therefore there occurred a delay in gathering the information. As such CPIO vide letter dated 13.03.2026 has responded to the Appellant and informed the Appellant regarding the delay occurred in collecting the requested information from the custodian of records. As CPIO had already furnished the requested information vide letter dated 18.03.2026, no further action warranted on the appeal. Therefore, the appeal petition stands closed.

4. This Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the 28th day of April, 2026.
5. A second appeal, if desired against this decision, may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.

Deepu

(एनएस दीपू/NS Deepu)

प्रथमअपीलीयप्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/
मुख्यनियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

1.

2. CPIO, VSSC/IISU

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपील्य प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही
PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005
Appeal No. 5/2026 (File No.VSSC/RTI/7-4419(O))

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/ :
Name of Appellant

प्रतिवादी का नाम/ : **Suresh K**
Name of Respondent Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. **Background**

vide application dated 24.02.2026 (received by CPIO on 25.02.2026) had sought certain information regarding in 36 queries. After collecting relevant information from various custodians of records, CPIO vide letter dated 23.03.2026 has disseminated the available information to the applicant. On receipt of the reply, the applicant has submitted an appeal dated 07.04.2026 before the undersigned.

2. **Prayers in the appeal**

In the appeal, the Appellant has stated that the qualification of was incorrectly mentioned in the RTI application as M.A. (Physiology) instead of the M.A. (Psychology), due to inadvertent typographical error. Hence, he requested to condone the typographical error in the interest of justice and to uphold the spirit of transparency.

3. **निर्णय/DECISION**

On perusal of the records brought before me, it is observed that, the Appellant has submitted the RTI application citing the qualification of as M.A. (Physiology). Accordingly, CPIO vide letter dated 23.03.2026 has furnished the reply to the Appellant. It is also noted that the Appellant has not intimated CPIO regarding the said typographic error within the time limit of 30 days or before CPIO furnish the reply. As CPIO has already furnished the information as sought by the Appellant, the ground for filing the appeal could not be justified. In the instant case, the Appellant has modified the scope of RTI application in his appeal and the same is not in order as per CIC decision. If the Appellant desires to get the information based on the revised qualification, the correct course is that he could file a fresh application seeking the requested information. Therefore, the appeal petition is closed without further action.

4. This Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the ..6th.... day of May, 2026.
5. A second appeal, if desired against this decision, may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.

Deepu

(एनएस दीपू आइटीएस/NS Deepu ITS)
प्रथमअपीलीयप्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/
मुख्यनियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

1.

2. CPIO, VSSC/IISU

भारत सरकार/ Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग/ Department of Space
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत
प्रथम अपीलिय प्राधिकारी की कार्यवाही
PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005
Appeal No 6/2026 (File No.VSSC/RTI/7-4465(O))

अपीलकर्ता का नाम/
Name of Appellant

प्रतिवादी का नाम/
Name of Respondent

: **Suresh K**
Sr. Head, PGA/CPIO
VSSC

1. Background

vide application dated 24.03.2026 (received by CPIO on transfer from ISRO HQ on 25.03.2026) has sought certain information regarding the employees who have transferred w.e.f. 01.01.2024 from VSSC to other ISRO centres/units. After collecting relevant information from the custodian of records, CPIO vide letter dated 18.04.2026 has furnished the information to the Appellant and disposed of the application on 21.04.2026. However, the Appellant has filed an appeal dated 22.04.2026 before the undersigned.

2. Prayers in the appeal

The Appellant alleged that no response was received against his RTI application within the time limit. He has also alleged that even though the sought information pertain to different centres/units of ISRO, the application was transferred to VSSC only.

3. निर्णय/DECISION

- a. On perusal of the records brought before me it is observed that CPIO has furnished the reply vide letter dated 18.04.2026, well within the time limit of 30 days from the date of receipt of the application. Therefore, no delay occurred from the part of CPIO and the allegation of non-furnishing information within the time limit is factually incorrect.
- b. Further, as the Appellant has sought information in respect of the transfers from VSSC to various centres/units, CPIO, ISRO HQ has forwarded the RTI application to VSSC. Since, the application was transferred by CPIO, ISRO HQ,

the allegation regarding transferring application only to VSSC is not coming under the purview of FAA/VSSC. If the Appellant still desires to get the information pertaining to other ISRO centres, the Appellant may once again approach CPIO, ISRO HQ clearly indicating the names of centres in respect of which he desires to get the information. In view of the above, the appeal petition is closed without further action.

4. This Appeal is disposed of at Thiruvananthapuram on the ^{13th}..... day of May, 2026.
5. A second appeal, if desired against this decision, may be preferred with the Central Information Commission, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, within ninety days from the date on which this decision is received.

Deepu

(एनएस दीपू आईटीएस/NS Deepu ITS)

प्रथमअपीलीयप्राधिकारी /First Appellate Authority/

मुख्यनियंत्रक/Chief Controller

To

1.

2. CPIO, VSSC/IISU