

Central Information Commission  
Appeal No.CIC/PB/A/2008/01247-SM dated 10-03-2008  
Right to Information Act-2005-Under Section (19)

Dated: 14 September 2009

Name of the Appellant : Shri Manohar Dhakate  
Secretary, Adiwasi Halba Samaj Samiti,  
Anchaleshwar Ward,  
Chandrapur, Maharashtra.

Name of the Public Authority : CPIO, Reserve Bank of India,  
D/o Administration & Personnel  
Management, Central Office,  
Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg,  
Mumbai.

The Appellant was present in person.

On behalf of the Respondent Shri Unnikrishnan, Deputy General Manager was present.

2. In this case, the Appellant had, in his three applications all dated March 10, 2008, requested the CPIO for photocopies of the caste certificates, school leaving certificates and the first page of the service books of 30 employees of the Bank. The CPIO, in his reply dated April 15, 2008, denied the information claiming it to be personal information of third parties which was exempt from disclosure under Section 8(1) (j) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Not satisfied with this reply, he moved the first Appellate Authority on May 5, 2008. That Authority rejected his appeal in his order dated May 21, 2008 by concurring in the decision of the CPIO. The Appellant has challenged that order in his second appeal.

3. This case was heard through videoconferencing. The Appellant was present in the Chandrapur studio of the NIC while the Respondent was present in the Mumbai studio. We heard their submissions. We do not agree with the contention of the CPIO that the desired information was entirely exempt from disclosure as personal information under the Section cited by

him. In fact, we have held in the past that all such documents which constitute essential eligibility condition for appointment to the service of any organisation cannot be claimed to be personal information and exempted from disclosure. For example, if a candidate secures the appointment on the basis of the caste certificate, that certificate has to be available in the public domain. Similarly, the school leaving certificate or the first page of the service book wherein the caste status of the said candidate is mentioned, will have to be disclosed after severing other personal details contained in those documents. In view of this, we direct the CPIO to provide to the Appellant within 15 working days from the receipt of this order, certified photocopies of the above documents for all the 30 employees, severing, wherever necessary, personal details other than the caste status of the said employees.

4. With the above direction, the appeal is disposed off.
5. Copies of this order be given free of cost to the parties.

**(Satyananda Mishra)**  
**Information Commissioner**

Authenticated true copy. Additional copies of orders shall be supplied against application and payment of the charges prescribed under the Act to the CPIO of this Commission.

**(Vijay Bhalla)**  
**Assistant Registrar**