

**H.B.J. Ranadeera v Parliament of Sri Lanka**

RTIC Appeal (In-Person Hearing)/337/2018 - Minute adopted at a part of the formal meeting of the Commission on 02.10.2018 subsequent to a hearing on 28.08.2018

Record of Proceedings under Rule 28 of the Right to Information Rules of 2017 (Fees and Appeal Procedure)

**Chairperson:** Mahinda Gammampila  
**Commission Member:** Senior Attorney-at-Law Kishali Pinto-Jayawardena  
**Commission Member:** Senior Attorney-at-Law S.G. Punchihewa  
**Commission Member:** Dr. Selvy Thiruchandran  
**Commission Member:** Justice Rohini Walgama

**Director-General:** Piyathissa Ranasinghe

**Appellant:** H.B.J. Ranadeera

**Notice issued to:** Neil Iddawala, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary General of Parliament/ Designated Officer Parliament of Sri Lanka

**Appearance/ Represented by:**

Appellant - Rajeev Amarasuriya Attorney-at-Law  
Prabhashanee Jayasekera Attorney-at-Law  
PA - Absent

<b>RTI Request filed on</b>	12.12.2017
<b>IO responded on</b>	29.12.2018
<b>First Appeal to DO filed on</b>	10.01.2018
<b>DO responded on</b>	02.02.2018
<b>Appeal to RTIC filed on</b>	28.03.2018

**Brief Factual Background:**

The Appellant by request dated 12.12.2017 requested the following items of information.

1. The total sums allegedly outstanding from Appellant to the Parliamentary Staff Thrift Society, as recorded in the books and records of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014;
2. Copies of the documentary proof relied upon by the Parliamentary Staff Thrift Society, in arriving at the sums given in response to (1) above?
3. Copies of the documentary proof relied upon by the Sri Lanka Parliament, in arriving at the sums given in response to (1) above?

4. The basis of computation for the monthly deductions made from my salary under classification of “Thrift” since January 2013 to up to date? (please provide relevant computation for each month)
5. Copies of the Audited Accounts of the Parliamentary Staff Thrift Society in respect of the years 2008 to 2016
6. Bank confirmation of all cheque payments issued to the Appellant by the Parliament Staff Thrift Society.

The IO on 29.12.2018 responded rejecting the request for information on the basis that the information requested by the Appellant does not come within the purview of Parliament and is not in the possession of the Parliament. Dissatisfied with the response of the IO the Appellant lodged an appeal with the DO on 10.01.2018. The DO responded on 02.02.2018 stating that with respect to item Nos. 1,2,3,5, & 6 of the information request the DO informed the Appellant that there is no reason to interfere with the decision given by the IO as the requested information does not come within the purview of Parliament. With respect to item No. 4 the DO states that the document relating to the deduction from the salary of the Appellant as per the instruction of the Parliamentary Staff Thrift Society has been made available to the Appellant. Dissatisfied with the response of the DO the Appellant preferred an appeal to the Commission on 28.03.2018.

**Matters Arising During the Course of the Hearing:**

The PA had requested a date on the basis that there has been a confusion with respect to the notices dispatched by the Commission. Counsel on behalf of the Appellant submitted that there are three other connected appeals, one filed by the Appellant and two others filed by H. B. P. Ranadheera against the PA concerning the same matter.

The matter is re-fixed for hearing along with the other three appeals on the 09.10.2018.

The Appeal is adjourned.