

H.B.P. Ranadeera v Parliament of Sri Lanka

RTIC Appeal (In-Person Hearing)/337A/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.P. 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

RTI Request filed on	12.12.2017
IO responded on	29.12.2018
First Appeal to DO filed on	10.01.2018
DO responded on	02.02.2018
Appeal to RTIC filed on	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 1st January 2013 and 1st 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 stating that 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 matter is re-fixed for hearing along with RTIC Appeal 337/2018 on 09.10.2018.