

N. Pugansrindiran v Zonal Education Office, Valikamam

RTIC Appeal (In-Person Hearing) [1398]/[2019]- Order adopted as part of the formal meeting of the Commission on 05/07/2019.

Order under Section 32 (1) of the Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016 and Record of Proceedings under Rule 28 of the Right to Information Rules of 2017 (Fees and Appeal Procedure)

Commission Member: Dr. Selvy Thiruchandran

Appellant: N. Pugansrindiran

Notice issued to: Designated Officer, Zonal Education Office Maruthanaramadam Chunnakam

Appearance/ Represented by:

Appellant – N. Pugansrindiran

PA – Gnanalingam Aathavan, Deputy Education Director Administration, Zonal Education Office Valikamam

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| RTI Request filed on | 05/12/2018 |
| IO responded on | No response |
| First Appeal to DO filed on | 24/12/2018 |
| DO responded on | No response |
| Appeal to RTIC filed on | 21/01/2018 |

Brief Factual Background:

The Appellant on 05/12/2018 requested the following information.

- *Details of the expenses, sources of funding and copies of prior permission granted by the Secretary to the Ministry of Education for the felicitation ceremony of principals and teachers conducted by the Director of Zonal Education on 29/11/2018.*

As the IO failed to respond within the time period stipulated under the Act the Appellant on 24/12/2018 lodged an appeal with the DO. As the DO too failed to respond with the time period stipulated under the Act the Appellant preferred an appeal to the Commission on 21/01/2018.

Matters Arising During the Course of the Hearing:

The PA agreed to provide the details of the expenses for the felicitation ceremony of principals and teachers held on 29/11/2018 along with its sources of funding. With regard to the request for the prior permission granted by the Secretary to the Ministry of Education, the PA stated that

permission from the Secretary to the Ministry of Education is provided only for events which are included under the yearly plan. However since this was a programme outside of that yearly plan, funds were obtained from various individuals.

Order:

The PA is ordered to provide certified copies of details of the expenses of the felicitation programme of teachers and principals and its sources of funding within one month of the receipt of the order. The Appellant is requested to inform the Commission within one month of receipt of information, if dissatisfied with information received. The Commission upholds the response of the Designated Officer with regard to the request for copies of the permission given by the Secretary to the Ministry of Education.

Order is conveyed to both parties in terms of Rule 27 (3) of the Commission's Rules on Fees and Appeal Procedures (Gazette No. 2004/66, 03.02.2017).

The Appeal is concluded.

The above order is confirmed and adopted at a meeting of the Commission held on 30/07/2019.