Central Information Commission, New Delhi
File No.CIC/SM/A/2013/000334
Right to Information Act-2005-Under Section (19)

Date of hearing : 22/07/2013
Date of decision : 22/07/2013

Name of the Appellant : Sh. Vishwas Bharmburkar,
B-72, Satelite Center, Vastrapur,
Ahmedabad-380 015

Name of the Public Authority : Central Public Information Officer,
Cabinet Secretariat,
(Mantrimandal Sachivalaya), Rashtrapati
Bhawan, New Delhi

The Appellant was present.

On behalf of the Respondent, Shri K.J. Sibichan, US & CPIO was present.

Chief Information Commissioner : Shri Satyananda Mishra

2. We heard both the parties.

3. The Appellant had sought the copies of the Service Books and the ACRs of all the secretaries and secretary equivalent officers posted in the central government. The CPIO had disposed of his request with the observation that the desired information was not specific and was scattered over various ministries and departments of the government and not maintained centrally in

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the Cabinet Secretariat. Not satisfied with this reply, he had preferred an appeal. The Appellate Authority had directed the CPIO to provide the copies of the Service Book of those secretary level officers who were posted in the Cabinet Secretariat itself, strictly as per the provisions of the Right to Information (RTI) Act and various orders and judgements passed by the competent authorities from time to time. However, the CPIO did not provide any such information.

4. During the hearing, the Appellant submitted that he was only interested to know about the places of posting of all the secretaries and secretary level officers posted in the government of India since their first joining the service. The respondent pointed out that this information would not be available centrally in any one place and would have to be obtained from various cadre controlling authorities to which the secretaries and the secretary equivalent officers posted in the Government of India belonged. We agree with this position because it is indeed a fact that, the service history of all the secretaries and secretary level officers in the central government are not maintained in the Cabinet Secretariat.

5. However, for the secretary and secretary level officers posted within the Cabinet Secretariat, the CPIO should find out if the service history of these officers would be available with them. In case it is available, he is directed to send the copies of the service histories to the Appellant within 15 working days of receiving this order. However, if no such services history is maintained in the Cabinet Secretariat, the CPIO shall inform the Appellant suitably.

6. The remaining information sought by the Appellant, such as, the annual
confidential rolls of the officers cannot be provided being strictly in the nature of personal information the disclosure of which has no relation to any public activity or interest.

7. The appeal is disposed off accordingly.

8. Copies of this order be given free of cost to the parties.

(Satyananda Mishra)
Chief 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)
Deputy Registrar