

To,

4.08.09

Shri Wajahat Habibullah
Central Information Commission
306, 2nd Floor,
August Kranti Bhavan,
New Delhi- 110 066

Complaint under Section 18(f) of *Right to Information Act, 2005*

Sir,

This is with reference to the complaint dated 16.02.09, filed before you relating to difficulties faced by an applicant in accessing information from the High Courts due to procedural technicalities and complexities in the method and mode of payment of prescribed application fees. There is no common method of payment and the stipulations, as prescribed by certain High Courts make it virtually impossible for citizens who are not local to take recourse to the RTI Act, thus subverting the very objective of the Act. A copy of the aforementioned complaint is placed at Annexure A.

As desired by your office on 29th July, 2009, we are enclosing separate letters in respect of each High Court. This letter is specifically in respect of High Court, Allahabad.

The High Court, Allahabad has set an application fee of Rs 500/- which is very high and seems to be designed to discourage citizens from using the RTI Act and are inconsistent with Section 7(5) of the RTI Act. Besides this exorbitant application fee, the said High Court has also specified photocopying charges of Rs. 15/-per page. Rules 3 and 4 of the said High Court state that *'Every application shall be made for one particular item of information only' and 'each application shall be accompanied by cash or draft or pay order of Rs 500/-.....'*

I request you to kindly have the RTI rules framed by High Court, Allahabad, examined with a view to rectifying the deviations from the letter and spirit of the RTI Act, 2005. You may also like to ensure that the High Court proactively provide information under section 4 of the RTI Act, 2005 on matters of public interest such as mounting backlog of cases in the Courts with the objective that public have minimum resort to the use of RTI Act to obtain information.

Please find enclosed herewith copies of the particulars of all correspondence with the CPIO, High Court, Allahabad, including the original RTI Application filed before the said Court.

Yours sincerely,

Sarvesh Sharma
C/o Common Cause
Common Cause House,
5, Institutional Area,
Nelson Mandela Road,
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070

Enclosures:

1. Annexure A- Copy of complaint filed before CIC under Section 18(f) of RTI Act, 2005
2. Annexure B- Copy of correspondence with CPIO, High Court, Allahabad