



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 20-01-2026

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V. LAKSHMINARAYANAN

WP No. 20151 of 2023

Central Public Information Officer & AGM,
Indian Overseas Bank,
Central Office, 762, Anna Salai,
Chennai - 600 002.

Petitioner(s)

Vs.

1.Ashok Kumar Raheja

2.Central Information Commissioner
Baba Gangnath Marg, Munirka
New Delhi – 110067.

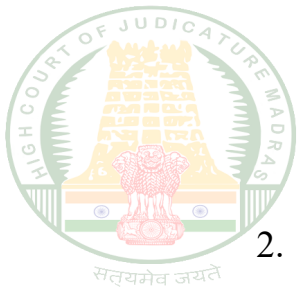
Respondent(s)

For Petitioner(s): Mr.R.Manimuthu

For Respondent(s): Mr.K.S.Jeyaganesh (R2)
Mr.S.Girish (R1)

ORDER

The petitioner before me is a financial institution. It is a nationalized bank. The contesting respondent was its employee. Both criminal as well as departmental proceedings were initiated against him. Being a Central Government Body, the prosecuting agency was the Central Bureau of Investigation(CBI).



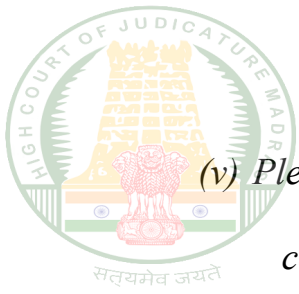
2. Post the disciplinary enquiry and the criminal proceedings, this writ petition has come up for hearing before me. The short issue to be answered is as to whether the following information are liable to be given to the contesting respondent under the provisions of the Right to Information Act(RTI Act):-

“(i) Please provide Certified Copy of Letter No.2582/RCBD1/2015/E/0006/CBI/BS & FC&ND dated 28.06.2017 by CBI New Delhi to Vigilance Department, Indian Overseas Bank, Central Office, Chennai, seeking sanction for his prosecution under PC act in the account of Green valley Plywood Ltd.

(ii) Please provide certified Copies of internal office memorandum(s) appointing Disciplinary Authority and ail office memorandum(s) containing the opinion /views of Disciplinary Authority and of the concerned department, for giving sanction for my prosecution to CBI vide sanction order dated 21.08.2017.

(iii) Please provide certified copy of letter addressed by Vigilance Department Central Office;, Indian Overseas Bank to, Disciplinary authority, appointing him, as Disciplinary Authority, in the above referred matter.

(iv) Please provide certified of draft sanction supplied by CBI.



(v) *Please provide details of meetings with CBI and CVC and certified copies of correspondence with CBI and CVC in this matter.”*

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3. A reading of the information sought for shows, that information Nos. (i), (iv) and (v) are inextricably relate to the prosecution launched by the CBI, at the instance of the writ petitioner.

4. The Right to Information Act under Section 24 has empowered the Central Government to grant exemption from the application of the RTI Act to notified organizations. In the list of organizations as provided under Schedule II, Central Bureau of Investigation has been notified as one such authority exempted from the Right to Information Act. This is clear from Sl. No. 23 of Schedule II to the Right to Information Act.

5. Hence, I am of the view that what the petitioner cannot get directly from the CBI, cannot be indirectly obtained through the offices of the writ petitioner. Hence, the 1st respondent will not be entitled to the information sought for with respect to the information Nos.(i), (iv) and (v).

6. Insofar as information No.(ii) is concerned, Mr.Manimuthu argues that this too is linked to the prosecution launched by the CBI,



7. *Prima facie*, I am of the view that the information No.(ii) relates to disciplinary proceedings that were launched against the contesting respondent and these cannot be brought under Section 8(1)(h) read with Section 24 and Schedule II and item No.24 of the Right to Information Act.

8. Mr.Manimuthu states that he will produce authorities to show that such informations are also excluded from the Right to Information Act. He shall file a typed set of authorities duly served on the counsel for the contesting respondent(s) and present the same to the Court by the next date of hearing.

9. Insofar as Information No.(iii) is concerned, Mr.Manimuthu submits that the same will be furnished to him, after redacting any information that may disclose the identity of individuals. The petitioner is concerned only with the information sought and not with the identity of any person. Accordingly, Mr.Manimuthu shall furnish the information under item No.(iii), after duly redacting all sensitive and identifying particulars.

10.Post the matter on 02.02.2026.

20-01-2026

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To

1. Central Information Commissioner
Baba Gangnath Marg, Munirka
New Delhi – 110067.

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V.LAKSHMINARAYANAN J.

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