



ABSTRACT

Right to Information Act, 2005 – Online filing of Petitions and First Appeals under the Act - Implementation of - Orders - Issued.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS (AR-III) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.49

Dated: 29.04.2020

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு 2051,

சார்வரி, சித்திரை 16

READ:

ORDER:

The Right to Information Act, 2005 provides for making a request in writing or through electronic means in English or Hindi or in the official language of the area in which the application is being made, accompanying such fee as may be prescribed, to—

- (a) the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, of the concerned public authority;
- (b) the Central Assistant Public Information Officer or State Assistant Public Information Officer, as the case may be,

specifying the particulars of the information sought by him or her.

2. As far as the State of Tamil Nadu is concerned, applications under the Right to Information Act, 2005 are being received through typed / handwritten applications and there is no provision to apply through electronic means. The Government of India have launched a web portal for filing RTI Applications through online. The State Governments of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Delhi have also introduced such online filing of RTI Applications. The facility of online filing of Second Appeal under Section 19(3) of the Right to Information Act has been introduced in the website of Tamil Nadu Information Commission viz., www.tnsic.gov.in with effect from 13.08.2018 and the same is being utilised by the citizens.

(.....2...)

3. There have been consistent requests to introduce the facility of filing RTI Applications through online in Tamil Nadu. Petitions have also been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Hon'ble High Court of Madras for providing the facility of online filing of Petitions and Appeals under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

4. In these circumstances, the proposal to introduce a facility for online filing of Petitions under Section 6(1) and First Appeals under Section 19(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (Central Act 22 of 2005) through an exclusive web-portal was examined by the Government. In this regard, the Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, while moving the Demands for grants relating to Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department, has made the following announcement on the Floor of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 17.03.2020:

“தகவல் பெறும் உரிமைச் சட்டத்தின் கீழ் தகவல் கோரும் விண்ணப்பங்கள், பொது மக்கள் நேரிலோ அல்லது தபாலிலோ அனுப்புகின்ற தற்போதைய நடைமுறையினை எளிமைப்படுத்தும் வகையில், தகவல் கோரும் விண்ணப்பங்களையும், முதலாம் மேல்முறையீட்டு மனுக்களையும் இணையவழியில் சமர்ப்பிக்கும் வசதி இந்த நிதியாண்டிலிருந்து படிப்படியாக ஏற்படுத்தப்படும்.”

5. In the light of the announcement made by the Hon'ble Minister (Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms), the Government, after careful examination, have decided

- (i) to introduce the facility of online filing of petitions under Section 6(1) and First Appeals under Section 19(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (ii) to use the software already available with the National Informatics Centre namely, the software being used by the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT of Delhi), after making necessary changes to make it suitable for the needs of this State;
- (iii) as a first step, to conduct a trial run of the software for filing of petitions under Section 6(1) and First Appeals under Section 19(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in the Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department, Secretariat;
- (iv) to conduct the trial run, initially, in the existing server of National Informatics Centre;
- (v) after ascertaining the performance of trial run, to conduct a pilot run in a major department such as School Education Department which has a wide penetration of offices in the State;

(.....3....)

- (vi) after successful implementation of the pilot project and after establishing necessary hardware set-up required for this purpose, to launch the online web-portal throughout the State duly carrying out necessary changes in the software;
- (vii) to accept online payment, as a mode of payment, pending amendment to the Tamil Nadu Right to Information (Fees) Rules, 2005; and
- (viii) to engage the State Bank of India to act as a Merchant Banker for providing the service of Payment Gateway and to deposit the amount collected, in the Reserve Bank of India

and orders accordingly.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**S. SWARNA,
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.**

To

All Additional Chief Secretaries / Principal Secretaries / Secretaries to Government,
Secretariat, Chennai – 9.

All Departments of Secretariat, Chennai – 9.

All Head of Departments

Copy to:

The Office of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chennai – 9.

The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Fisheries, Personnel and
Administrative Reforms), Secretariat, Chennai – 9.

The Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary, Chennai – 9.

The Principal Private Secretary to Secretary to Government, Personnel and
Administrative Reforms Department, Chennai – 9.

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SECTION OFFICER. 29/4/2020