

CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION

(Room No.315, B-Wing, August Kranti Bhawan, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi 110 066)

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Prof. M. Sridhar Acharyulu (Madabhushi Sridhar)

Central Information Commissioner

CIC/KY/C/2016/000034

Ashotosh J Tiwari v. PIO, ASI

RTI	:	26.09.2015
FAO	:	Nil
Second Appeal	:	30.12.2015
Hearing	:	14.02.2017
Complainant	:	Absent.
Public authority	:	Mr. Vipin Chandra, CPIO, Mumbai
Decided on	:	14.02.2017

ORDER

FACTS:

1. The appellant has sought the status and action taken report on his letter with Ref. No. F. No. 2/SA/MC/2012-13-965 dated 19.06.2013. The appellant complained that the Shivalinga in Ambernath Temple (East), Thane was getting damaged and depleted due to constant pouring of religious offerings like milk, water and other food items. He requested the caretaker of the temple in this regard who suggested to contact ASI to obtain permission for any repair/alterations and referred to an example of Shivalinga at Bhimashankar near Karjat, Raigad District where the Shivalinga is covered with silver cover and that similar initiative should be taken in the Ambernath temple. Mr. M.S. Chouhan, Superintending Archaeologist wrote to the Director General, ASI on 19.06.2013 that the living temple in Ambernath was visited by number of devotees daily and they cannot stop them because of the living nature of the monument and requested for granting permission to provide silver/metal cover over the Shivalinga as suggested by the appellant.

Decision :

2. Mr. Vipin Chandra, CPIO from NIC, Mumbai told the Commission through Video Conferencing that they have forwarded earlier RTI application of the appellant to the Headquarters who are authorised to take action. After hearing the submissions and studying the file, the Commission finds that the RTI application was unnecessarily transferred from the Headquarters to Mumbai Circle, ASI more than once. Technically, there was response but there was no redressal of the complaint about the possible depletion of ancient Shivalinga at Ambernath Temple which is a living monument where traditional or ritual worship cannot be abandoned. The appellant apprehends that regular offering of milk will damage the Shivalinga.

3. The Commission finds that there was no effort on the part of ASI to examine the possibility of damage and to prevent the same. The higher authorities of ASI should have consulted the experts and answered the apprehension of the appellant. The Commission recommends the same. It is the duty of the ASI to protect the living monument and scientifically dispel the apprehension. The Commission directs CPIO, ASI, Headquarters to inform the appellant their efforts and the result, before 30.03.2017.

SD

(M. Sridhar Acharyulu)
Central Information Commissioner

Authenticated true copy

(Dinesh Kumar)
Deputy Registrar

Copy of decision given to the parties free of cost.

Addresses of the parties:

1. The CPIO under RTI,
Archaeological Survey of India,
Mumbai Circle, Sion Fort, Sion(E),
Mumbai-400022.
2. Shri Ashotosh J Tiwari,
103, Marigold A, Kailash Nagar,
Ambarnath East, Thane-421501.