

CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION
2nd Floor, 'B' Wing, August Kranti Bhawan,
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi -110066
Tel : +91-11-26186535

Appeal No. CIC/KY/A/2016/000497

Appellant: Mr. Sameep Vijayvergiya,
R/o. Flat No. 1301, 13th Floor,
Millenia Emerald Heights, Ramaprashta Greens,
Sector-7, Vaishali Extension,
Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010

Respondent: Central Public Information Officer
RPO, M/o. E.A., CPV Division,
Patiala House Annexe, Tilak Marg,
New Delhi-110001

Date of Hearing: 01.03.2017

Dated of Decision: 01.03.2017

ORDER

Facts:

1. The appellant filed RTI application dated 14.07.2015 seeking a certified and readable copy of the passport manual.
2. The CPIO responded on 27.02.2015. The appellant filed First Appeal dated 08.09.2015 with First Appellate Authority (FAA). The FAA responded on 23.10.2015. The appellant filed second appeal on 16.03.2016 before the Commission on the ground that information should be provided to him.

Hearing:

3. Both the parties were personally present in the hearing.
4. The appellant referred to his RTI application dated 14.07.2015 and stated that the information sought was denied to him on the ground that "passport manual is a restricted as well as an internal document of the Government and the same cannot be provided under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005".

5. The appellant stated that the CPIO has not mentioned the specific provision of the RTI Act under which the information was denied to him.

6. The respondent stated that certain part/pages of the passport manual contains information which would prejudicially affect the security interests of India and is exempted under Section 8(1)(a) of the RTI Act, 2005.

Discussion/ observation:

7. The Commission is of the view that without perusal of the Passport Manual accompanied by suitable explanation by MEA, it cannot be decided that whether the sought for information impacts on security interests of India.

Decision:

8. The respondent is directed to produce Passport Manual before the Commission on 14.03.2017 at 02:35 p.m. The respondent is further directed to file their written submissions to the Commission, before the next date of hearing.

9. The matter is adjourned and may be listed for further hearing after 14.03.2017.

Copy of the order be given to the parties free of cost.

(Radha Krishna Mathur)
Chief Information Commissioner

Authenticated true copy

(S.C. Sharma)
Dy. Registrar