

**BEFORE THE REGISTRAR OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES-CUM-FIRST APPELLATE
AUTHORITY UNDER THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005**

FA/1/2014

Present: **Thiru T. KARIKALAN,**
Registrar of Co-operative Societies-cum-
First Appellate Authority.

Thiru T. Pravin,
No.25, Kulathu Medu Street,
Thirubuvanai,
Periyapet,
Puducherry – 605 107.

>>>>>

Appellant

Vs.

The Public Information Officer,
Pondicherry State Co-operative Housing Federation Ltd., P.486,
7th Cross, Thanthai Periyar Nagar,
Puducherry – 605 005.

>>>>>

Respondent

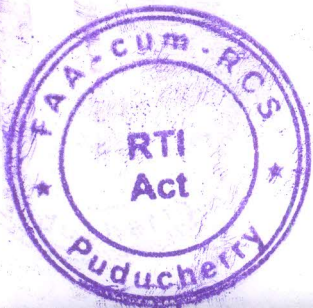
ORDER

(Issued under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005)

This first appeal, invoking Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (for short 'the Act') is directed against the order dated 24.12.2013 of the respondent, in response to the application dated 30.11.2013 of the appellant / applicant.

2. In his application the appellant / applicant sought information pertaining to the employees of the Pondicherry State Co-operative Housing Federation Ltd., Puducherry (hereinafter 'the Federation') and also on the flats proposed in Muthupillaipalayam. While furnishing the information to some queries the respondent agreed to provide documents after inspection by the applicant to queries Nos.3 and 7. Information was denied to question Nos.4 and 14. This was followed by a rejoinder dated 3.1.2014 by the applicant and it appears that the respondent furnished some more information vide his letter dated 10.1.2014.

...2/-



3. Aggrieved by the information provided, a first appeal dated 22.1.2014 was filed alleging that the respondent was trying to conceal the material information. In the annexure enclosed with the first appeal application form, he disputed the information provided to queries Nos.2 to 8, 11 and 14.

4. The appeal was taken on file and the respondent was directed to file his response. A copy of the response so filed along with the enclosures is forwarded to the appellant. On poring over the grounds of appeal and the response filed by the respondent it is seen that in query No.4 the appellant demanded the letters and petitions filed by the 'Puduvai Maanila Kootturavu Veetu Vasidhi Enaiya Oozhiyargalin Oorimai Padugappu matrum Munnetra Sangam'. To the said query the respondent informed that as the details sought for pertains to employees union the same could not be provided. Even while furnishing the response dated 19.2.2014 the respondent reiterated the stand and stated that as there are two employees union in the Federation and providing information to the appellant would cause unnecessary problem and hence information is denied.

5. It is the consistent view of the Central Information Commission that in order to deny information under the Right to Information Act, the authority concerned would have to show a justification with reference to one of the specific clauses under Section 8 (1) of the Act.

6. In this connection it is pertinent to advert the observations made by Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in *Bhagat Singh vs. CIC and others*, 2008 (2) ID 200:

"The Act is an effectuation of the right to freedom of speech and expression. In an increasingly knowledge based society, information and access to information holds the key to resources, benefits and distribution

....3/-

