

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

Present: **Tmt. P. PRIYARSHNY,**
Registrar of Co-operative Societies-cum-
First Appellate Authority.

FA/23/2013

Thiru M.J. Ramesh,
N.15-C, Kambatham Street,
Mannadipet & P.O.,
Puducherry – 605 501.

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Appellant

Vs.

The Public Information Officer,
Puducherry Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd., No. P. 315,
Lingareddipalayam,
Katterikuppam Post,
Puducherry – 605 502.

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Respondent

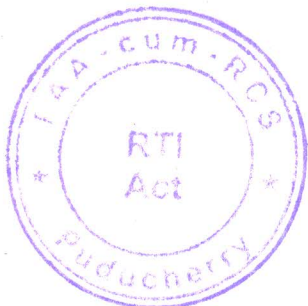
ORDER

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

The intriguing question that comes up for decision in this first appeal, filed under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005, is whether the appellant is entitled to claim copies of documents at free of cost on the plea that he belongs to below poverty line category, having paid the application fee.

2. The facts germane to this appeal may be stated thus :-

2.1. Vide his application dated 10-6-2013, the appellant / applicant sought information from the respondent on a host of matters. He paid the application fee of ₹ 10/- by way of Court fee stamp.



2.2. A letter dated 17-7-2013 was sent to the appellant / applicant intimating that the cost of documents sought for would be around ₹ 60,000/- and hence the appellant was requested to come over to the office on prior appointment for inspection of documents. On specifying the documents, copies would be made available on payment of charges.

2.3. On receipt of the letter the appellant, vide letter dated 26-7-2013, wrote to the respondent stating that he is living below poverty line and hence all information and copy of the documents are to be provided free of cost to him. To substantiate his claim, he enclosed an income certificate from Taluk Office, Villianur, certifying that his income during the year 2012-13 was ₹ 24,000/-.

2.4. No response appears to have been sent by the respondent to this letter. The appellant came by way of first appeal.

3. Taking the appeal on file, the respondent was directed to file his response. A copy of the response is forwarded to the appellant.

4. In his response, the respondent has submitted that though the appellant was requested to come over for verification of documents, the appellant did not avail the opportunity but instead he submitted that the information should be provided to him free of cost. The Mill cannot afford to provide the documents to the value of ₹ 60,000/- free of cost. The respondent, therefore, requested to advice the appellant to approach the Mill for verification of documents and for getting the documents on payment of cost.

...3/-

