

Name of State Commission : State Information Commission, Kerala
Order : AP No. 1078(1)/2014/SIC Dt.31.01.2017
Subject / Issue : Availing information by taking
photographs of official documents through
digital camera
Operative section : Section 7(1)

The appellant had asked permission for taking micro/macro photography of thumb impression from the document kept at the Sub Registry which was denied to him, stating that the available facility in the Sub Registry does not provide facility for making micro/macro photography of the thumb impressions and that the normal practice is to provide photocopy of the same or by using digital image printer. The respondent, in his report submitted to the Commission, on 26/05/2014, stated that there was no specific mention about taking copies using macro photography available with the Applicant. He stated that such photography might affect the security of the documents concerned.

Held

The Appellant has requested for taking macro/micro photography of the thumb impressions from the document kept at the Sub Registry, Palakkad, at the cost of the Appellant himself. Denial of the above request on the ground that there is no specific provision for taking copies as requested by the Appellant in the Right to Information Act does not hold water. Photography of the thumb impressions either by the Appellant or by an expert in the presence of the Sub Registry Officials is not found to affect the safety and security of the document in any manner. As such, the Commission directs the 1st Respondent to allow the Appellant to take photograph of the relevant portion as required by him in the presence of a responsible officer of the Sub Registry at the cost of the Appellant himself.

The Commission disposes of this appeal petition, accordingly on the 31st day of January, 2017.

Sd/-
Vinson M.Paul
Chief Information Commissioner



STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION, KERALA

Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 001.

Tel: 0471- 2335199, Fax: 0471 2330920

Email: sic@kerala.nic.in

A.P.No.1078(1)/2014/SIC

(File No.7299/SIC-G4/2014)

Present

Sri. Vinson M.Paul, Chief Information Commissioner

RESPATCHED
13/02/17

Sri. M.Krishna Prasad
Jaya Vihar,
Irattakkulam P.O., Elappully (Via),
Palakkad - 678 622.

Appeal Petitioner

Vs

1. The State Public Information Officer &
The Sub Registrar,
Office of the Sub Registrar, Palakkad.

2. The Appellate Authority &
The District Registrar (General,
Office of the District Registrar (General),
Civil Station, Palakkad.

Respondents

ORDER

Appeal Petitioner, Sri. M. Krishna Prasad, in his 2nd appeal dated 14/05/2014, represented before the Commission that he is a legal heir to the property concerned in Document No. 263/1994 of the Sub Registry, Palakkad and being ^{the} affected party he had submitted an application to the 1st Respondent requesting for issuance of certified copy of the related portions in the Thump Impression Register of the Sub Registry relating to the above document. The 1st Respondent issued photostat of the related document

1

including the questioned thumb impressions. On contacting the Sub Registry stating that the photocopies would not serve the purpose, he was advised to submit another application for the same purpose. In the reply, he was informed that there were no specific guidelines regarding his request under Right to Information Act. The Appellant stated that the only method accepted by the judiciary and the police department for thumb impression is macro photography. He stated that if permission is granted to him to take macro photograph in the Sub Registry itself, the same could be done by him or by a qualified photographic expert in the presence of the Sub Registry officials even without touching the register. Hence he requested the Commission to give necessary directions to the staff of the Sub Registry.

2. The above appeal was taken on file as AP.No. 1078(1)/14/SIC and a detailed report was sought from the Respondents on 23/05/2014. Accordingly a report was furnished to the Commission on 26/05/2014 which was received in the office of the Commission on 30/05/2014.

3. The Commission conducted its hearing in the matter through video conferencing on 12/01/2017 in which the Appeal Petitioner as well as the 1st Respondent were present.

4. On scrutinizing the appeal petition and connected documents, the Commission finds that the information sought by the Appellant was denied to him, stating that the available facility in the Sub Registry does not provide facility for making micro/macro photography of the thumb impressions and that the normal practice is to provide photocopy of the same or by using digital image printer. The 2nd Respondent, in his report submitted to the Commission on 26/05/2014, stated that there was no specific mention about taking copies using macro photography available with the Applicant. He stated that such photography might affect the security of the documents concerned.

5. The Commission finds that the Appellant has requested for taking macro/micro photography of the thumb impressions from the document kept at the Sub Registry, Palakkad, at the cost of the Appellant himself. Denial of

the above request on the ground that there is no specific provision for taking copies as requested by the Appellant in the Right to Information Act does not hold water. Photography of the thumb impressions either by the Appellant or by an expert in the presence of the Sub Registry Officials is not found to affect the safety and security of the document in any manner. As such, the Commission directs the 1st Respondent to allow the Appellant to take photograph of the relevant portion as required by him in the presence of a responsible officer of the Sub Registry at the cost of the Appellant himself.

6. The Commission disposes of this appeal petition, accordingly on the 31st day of January, 2017.

Sd/-
Vinson M. Paul
Chief Information Commissioner

Authenticated Copy


Commission Secretary
Ngn/

