

The Aurthur Road Jail Case – An application succeeds into positive results

Starting: read a press report that inspite of a request to provide jammers in Arthur Road prison, sanction was not being given.

Filed RTI requisition as follows:

Annexure A
(see rule 3)

Affix Court fee Stamp
Of Rs. 10/

Format of application for obtaining information under the Right To Information Act, 2005

To,

The Public information Officer,
Add. Chief Secretary- Home department,
Mantralaya, Mumbai 400032.

- (1) Full name of applicant: Shailesh Gandhi
- (2) Address: B2, Gokul Apartment, Podar Road, Santacruz(W), Mumbai 400054.
- (3) Particulars of the information required
 - (i) Subject matter of Information: Procurement of Jammers for Arthur road jail
 - (ii) The period to which the information relates: Current
 - (iii) Description of the information required:

There is a report in the press, that a jammer is required and requested for in the Arthur road jail to block mobile phone signals. I want the following details on this:

 1. Date of the recommendation/request for proposal for jammers to be obtained to the Add. Chief Secretary home.
 2. Amount proposed to be incurred.
 3. Progress report of the proposal, mentioning the officials who have looked at it and the dates on which they received the proposal, and the dates on which they forwarded it.
 4. Present status of the proposal.
 - (iv) Whether the information is required by post or in person: By Post.
(the actual postal charges shall be included in additional fees)
 - (v) In case by post: By Speedpost.
(Ordinary, Registered or Speed)
- (4) Whether the applicant is below poverty line: Not below Poverty line.
(if yes, attach the photocopy of the proof thereof.

Place: Mumbai

Date: December 20, 2005

Signature of Applicant

Received a reply which describes how the file moved 32 steps from October 2001 until the application reached them, perhaps around December 22, 2005.
The jammers were installed on 10 January, 2006 as the reply shows.

By Speed Post

Immediate

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

No. JLM 1005/CR-282/PRS-2,
Home Department, Mantralaya,
Mumbai 400 032.
Dated the ~~17th January, 2006~~

15 FEB 2006

✓ To,
Shri Shailesh Gandhi,
B-2, Gokul Apartment,
Podar Road, Santacruz (W),
Mumbai. 400 054.

Sub: Information required under Right to Information
Act, 2005.

Sir,

You have applied to obtain information under the Right to Information Act, 2005 to the Public Information Officer, Home Department vide your application dated 20.12.2005.

The information required by you is as follows :

1. Date of the recommendations/request for proposal for Jammers to be obtained to the Add. Chief Secretary, Home.
2. Amount proposed to be incurred.
3. Progress report of the proposal, mentioning the officials who have looked at it and the dates on which they received the proposal, and the dates on which they forwarded it.
4. Present status of the proposal.

In the capacity of Information Officer, Home Department I submit following information to above points :

1. Deputy Inspector General of Prisons (HQ) vide his letter dt. 25.10.2001 forwarded a proposal to Govt. for installation of Mobile phone Jammer at Mumbai Central Prison, Mumbai.
2. The amount required was Rs.6,01,736/-.
3. Progress of the proposal :-

25/10/2001 : Inspector General of Prisons submitted proposal to install Jammers worth Rs.6,01,736/-.

31/10/2001 : Proposal was received at Desk PRS-II/ Home Department

5/12/2001 : Proposal was submitted to General Administration Department and Finance Department for approval

29/12/2001 : Proposal was moved from General Administration Department to Finance Department.

- 1/1/2002 : Proposal was approved by Finance Department.
- 18/1/2002 : Approval to the proposal was conveyed to Inspector General of Prisons.
- 2/3/2002 : Inspector General of Prisons asked for fresh administrative approval.
- 13/3/2002 : Inspector General of Prisons asked to give Head/ Subhead of the savings.
- 18/6/2002 : Inspector General of Prisons asked permission to allow them to meet the expenditure from sanctioned grants.
- 2/7/2002 : Proposal for additional grants was send to Finance Department.
- 31/7/2002 : Financial Department rejected the proposal of additional grants.
- 12/8/2002 : Inspector General of Prisons was asked to include the expenditure in revised estimates.
- 27/1/2003 : Inspector General of Prisons send D.O. letter to Addl. Chief Secretary (Home) to make available funds of Rs.6,01,736/- for Jammers.
- 18/2/2003 : Finance Department was asked for additional funds of Rs.6,01,736/-
- 9/4/2003 : Finance Department rejected the proposal
- 10/6/2003 : Supplementary demand of Rs.6,01,736/- was submitted to Finance Department
- 20/6/2003 : Finance Department approved the supplementary demand and asked to present it in legislative session of July 2003.
- 19/8/2003 : Government Resolution was issued to approve the grants of Rs.6,01,736/-.
- 31/3/2004 : Due to technical difficulties Jammers were not installed and funds were surrendered.
- 24/6/2004 : Meeting was held under Chairmanship of Minister of State (Home) to install Jammers
- 1/7/2004 : Proposal was submitted to Finance Department of Rs.7.00 lakhs

- 19/7/2004 : Finance Department approved the proposal and asked follow the prescribed Government procedure.
- 23/7/2004 : Mobile Jammer Purchase Committee was formed vide Government Resolution.
- 2/8/2004 : Technical specifications were approved in meeting
- 11/8/2004 : Inspector General of Prisons was conveyed about approval of technical specifications.
- 14.3.2005 : Inspector General of Prisons submitted tender documents for the approval of Government.
- 1/4/2005 : Information Technology Directorate after some suggestion approved the tender document.
- 23/6/2005 : Supplementary Demand of Rs.7.00 lakhs was submitted to Finance Department
- 30/6/2005 : Finance Department approved token Supplementary Demand.
- 4/8/2005 : Tender was published
- 8/11/2005 : Government Resolution was issued to approval of the expenditure.
- 11/11/2005 : Tenders were opened before purchase committee
- 26/12/2005 : Inspector General of Prisons was asked to place the order to successful beeder.
- 29/12/2005 : M/s. Project Presentation, New Delhi were asked install Jammers
- 10/1/2006 : Jammers were installed in Mumbai Central Prison

4. Present status : Jammers were installed at Mumbai Central Prison 10.01.2006.

Yours,



(A.G. Pardeshi)
Desk Officer, Home Department,
Government of Maharashtra