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RIGHT TO  
INFORMATION

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI  
ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS DEPARTMENT  
7<sup>TH</sup> LEVEL, C-WING, DELHI SECRETARIAT, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-02

No. F.13/06/2011-AR/ 6795-6955/C

Dated: 15/06/2011

To

All Principal Secretaries/Secretaries/HODs of Departments under GNCT of Delhi

All Heads of Local Bodies/Autonomous Bodies/Institutions/Organisations under Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

**Sub:- Decision dated 03/04/2008 of the High Court of Bombay at Goa in Writ Petition No. 419 of 2007 in the case of Dr. Celsa Pinto Vs. Goa State Information Commission regarding information under Right to Information Act, 2005.**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to forward the copy of Office Memorandum No. F.1/7/2009-IR dated 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011 issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India on the subject mentioned above, vide which it has been stated that the word 'like' used before the word 'why' in line 3 of their earlier O.M. of even number dated 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 may be treated as deleted (Copy enclosed). The relevant part of the judgement is being quoted below:

*"The definition of information cannot include within its fold answers to the question 'why' which would be same thing as asking the reason for a justification for a particular thing. The public information authorities cannot expect to communicate to the citizen the reason why a certain thing was done or not done in the sense of a justification because the citizen makes a requisition about information. Justifications are matter within the domain of adjudicating authorities and cannot properly be classified as information."*

All the Heads of Public Authority are requested that the content of O.M. as issued by DoPT may kindly be brought to the notice of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,

Encls. As above.

*Bawa*  
14/6/11  
(SEEMA BAWA)  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (AR)  
Tel: 011-23392422

No. F.13/06/2011-AR/ 6795-6955/C

Dated: 15/06/2011

Copy for information to:-

1. The Director, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India, North Block, New Delhi-110001 w.r.t. letter No. F.1/7/2009-IR dated 20/05/2011.

*Bawa*  
14/6/11  
(SEEMA BAWA)  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (AR)  
Tel: 011-23392422

No.1/7/2009-IR

Government of India

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions,  
Department of Personnel & Training

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North Block, New Delhi,  
Dated the 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2011.

Office of the Chief Secretary  
Govt. of NCT of Delhi

06 JUN 2011

Diary No.

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject : Decision dated 03.04.2008 of the High Court of Bombay at Goa in Writ Petition No.419 of 2007 in the case of Dr. Celsa Pinto Vs. Goa State Information Commission regarding Information under the Right to Information Act, 2005.**

The undersigned is directed to invite attention to this Department's Office Memorandum of even number dated 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2009 on the subject mentioned above (copy enclosed) and to say that some persons have observed that the High Court of Bombay at Goa in the above referred case did not use the word 'like' in the judgement and that inclusion of this word in the O.M. before the word 'why' is creating confusion. It is hereby stated that the word 'like' used before the word 'why' in line 3 of the O.M. may be treated as deleted. The relevant part of the judgement is again being quoted below :

"The definition of information cannot include within its fold answers to the question "why" which would be same thing as asking the reason for a justification for a particular thing. The public information authorities cannot expect to communicate to the citizen the reason why a certain thing was done or not done in the sense of a justification because the citizen makes a requisition about information. Justifications are matter within the domain of adjudicating authorities and cannot properly be classified as information."

This may be brought to the notice of all concerned.

  
(K.G. Verma)  
Director  
Tel : 23092158

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ARCB
1. All the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.
  2. Union Public Service Commission/Lok Sabha Secretariat/Rajys Sabha Secretariat/Cabinet Secretariat/Central Vigilance Commission/ President's Secretariat/Vice-President's Secretariat/Prime Minister's Office/Planning Commission/Election Commission.
  3. Central Information Commission/State Information Commissions.
  4. Staff Selection Commission, CGO Complex, New Delhi.
  5. Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, 10 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.
  6. All officers/Desks/Sections, DOP&T and Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare.

Copy to : Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs.

2067/AR

8-6-11

No.1/7/2009-IR  
Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions  
Department of Personnel & Training

North Block, New Delhi  
Dated: the 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2009

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject:** Decision dated 3.4.2008 of the High Court of Bombay at Goa in Writ Petition No.419 of 2007 in the case of Dr. Celsa Pinto Vs. Goa State Information Commission regarding information under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

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The undersigned is directed to say that the High Court of Bombay at Goa in the above referred case has held on 3.4.2008 that the term 'information' as defined in the Right to Information Act does not include answers to the questions like 'why'. The relevant part of the judgement is reproduced below:

"The definition of information cannot include within its fold answers to the question "why" which would be same thing as asking the reason for a justification for a particular thing. The public information authorities cannot expect to communicate to the citizen the reason why a certain thing was done or not done in the sense of a justification because the citizen makes a requisition about information. Justifications are matter within the domain of adjudicating authorities and cannot properly be classified as information."

2. This may be brought to the notice of all concerned.



(K.G. Verma)  
Director  
Tel: 23092158

1. All the Ministries / Departments of the Government of India
2. Union Public Service Commission/ Lok Sabha Sectt./ Rajya Sabha Secretariat/ Cabinet Secretariat/ Central Vigilance Commission/ President's Secretariat/ Vice-President's Secretariat/ Prime Minister's Office/ Planning Commission/Election Commission.
3. Central Information Commission/State Information Commissions.
4. Staff Selection Commission, CGO Complex, New Delhi
5. O/o the Comptroller&Auditor General of India, 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.
6. All officers/Desks/Sections, DOP&T and Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare.

Copy to: Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs.