Date: 22.04.2024

To,

Shri Syedain Abbasi, IAS Block C, 3rd Floor, Assam Secretariat (Civil), Dispur, Guwahati- 781006 Assam

From, Anuj Nakade,

**Subject:** Regarding the absence of an online web portal for filing of RTI Application for public authorities within the State.

Ma'am,

I am Anuj Nakade, a citizen of India and a digital content creator. Often in pursuing my vocation, I file applications with several government authorities nationwide for information to be published in my works.

In one such endeavour, I wished to file an application requesting information from the Police Administration / Home Department of the State of Assam. However, no web portal has been made operational by the State Government. Due to the lack of an operational online RTI web portal, the Application had to be filed through post. A copy of the postal receipt for the RTI filed with the PIO has been attached to this letter and marked herewith as **Annexure I**.

It is pointed out that as per a Supreme Court order dated 20.03.2023 in Writ Petition No. 1040 of 2019, the Supreme Court had observed that under Section 6(1) of the Right to Information Act, a person has the statutory right to file an RTI through electronic means. In light of this reasoning, the Supreme Court has issued directions to all State Governments and Union Territories to create operational RTI web portals within 3 months of the issuance of the order. A Copy of the Supreme Court order dated 20.03.2023 is attached herewith and marked as **Annexure II** 

It is further pointed out that the 3-month time period provided by the Supreme Court to create and operationalise RTI Web Portals elapsed on 20.06.2023.

Therefore, I am writing this letter to the Government of Assam to request the creation of an online portal for RTI Applications, where an RTI Request Application and First Appeals can be filed with all Public Information Officers and First Appellate Authorities Across the State. The Central Government has a website for all public authorities, along with several states. Given

below is a list of all RTI web portals for Central and State authorities across the country for reference to build a website for Assam.

- 1. Union Government <u>www.rtionline.gov.in</u>
- 2. Kerala https://rtiportal.kerala.gov.in/
- 3. Tamil Nadu https://rtionline.tn.gov.in/
- 4. Karnataka https://rtionline.karnataka.gov.in/
- 5. Telangana https://rti.telangana.gov.in/
- 6. Maharashtra https://rtionline.maharashtra.gov.in/
- 7. Chattisgarh https://rtionline.cg.gov.in/
- 8. Madhya Pradesh <u>https://www.rti.mp.gov.in/</u>
- 9. Odisha https://rtiodisha.gov.in/
- 10. Delhi https://rtionline.delhi.gov.in/
- 11. Rajasthan https://rti.rajasthan.gov.in/
- 12. Uttar Pradesh https://rtionline.up.gov.in/
- 13. Bihar https://jaankari.bihar.gov.in/
- 14. Meghalaya https://megrti.gov.in/
- 15. Mizoram <u>https://rti.mizoram.gov.in/login</u>
- 16. Tripura <u>https://rtionline.tripura.gov.in/</u>
- 17. Haryana https://rtiharyana.gov.in/
- 18. Punjab <u>https://rti.punjab.gov.in/</u>
- 19. Uttarakhand https://rtionline.uk.gov.in/
- 20. Himachal Pradesh https://onlinerti.hp.gov.in/
- 21. Ladakh https://rtionline.ladakh.gov.in/

I hope the State of Assam shall comply with the Order and embrace the spirit of the RTI Act and do the needful at the earliest.

Thank you, Regards, Anuj Nakade











# Annexure I

भारतीय डाक

India Post

RL NAGPUR GPO (440001) Counter No:26,21/03/2024,16:00 To:SARMISTHA BARVA,6UWAHATI PIN:781007, Ulubari S.O From:ANUJ NAKADE.

Wt:20gms,REG=17.0
Amt:25.96(Cash)Tax:3.96
{Track on www.indiapost.gov.in>
{Dial 18002666868> {Wear Masks, Stay Safe>

# Annexure II

# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

## **CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION**

### Writ Petition (Civil) No 1040 of 2019

Pravasi Legal Cell

Petitioner

Versus

# **Union of India and Others**

Respondents

**WITH** 

### Writ Petition (Civil) No 1325 of 2020

#### <u>O R D E R</u>

# Writ Petition (Civil) No 1325 of 2020

The petitioner invokes the jurisdiction of this Court under Article 32 of the Constitution seeking a direction to all the Registrars General of the High Courts to establish and operationalise online right to information portals, both for the High Court and the district judiciary under their administrative control. This, it is urged, would enable citizens to file online applications for information under the Right to Information<sup>1</sup> Act 2005 and navigate appeals "RTI"



arising from original orders.

- 2 The petitioner has highlighted that the Union Government has already established an online RTI portal in terms of which information can be sought under the Right to Information Act from each ministry/department. Moreover, some State governments are stated to have also operationalized the RTI portals.
- 3 At present, it has been submitted, a person seeking information under the RTI Act from the High Court or from any court forming a part of the district judiciary, has to make a physical application in the absence of a web portal. In such a case, the applicant has to obtain a postal order or a bank draft for the payment of the requisite fees. It has been urged that the setting up of online web portals will facilitate Indian citizens in seeking access to information under the Right to Information Act 2005.
- 4 The Chief Justice of every High Court would be the competent authority under Section 2(e)(iii) and has the power to make rules under Section 28. Hence, it is asserted that the Chief Justice of the High Courts can ensure that rules are formulated for setting up online portals for RTI applications and appeals arising from them.
- 5 Section 6(1) of the Right to Information Act 2005 stipulates that a person

who desires to obtain any information under the Act shall make a request in writing "or through electronic means" specifying the particulars of the information sought. This provision indicates that an RTI applicant has a statutory right to move an application through electronic means.

- 6 The Supreme Court of India has recently set up an online portal facilitating requests for the supply of information. Online facilities would considerably facilitate the fulfillment of the objects of the Act. Though the Act was enacted in October 2005, after a lapse of 17 years, online web portals are still to be operationalized by some of the High Courts.
- 7 During the course of hearing, this Court has been apprised of the fact that the High Courts of Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Delhi have set up web portals for the purpose. Likewise, it has been stated that in the State of Karnataka, the High Court utilizes the web portal which has been set up by the State government.
- 8 We are of the view that such an exercise should be carried out by all the High Courts in the country no later than within a period of three months from the date of this order.
- 9 A certified copy of this order shall be remitted by the Registrar (Judicial) of this Court to all the Registrars General, who shall in turn, seek administrative directions from the learned Chief Justices for implementation.

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- 10 The High Courts shall make adequate provisions to facilitate the supply of information through online web portals and for all incidental purposes connected with the implementation of the Right to Information Act 2005.
- 11 As regards the district judiciary, which is under the administrative control of the High Courts, we request all the Registrars General to take administrative directions from the Chief Justices. The High Courts may utilize the support of the National Informatics Centre for the purpose. NIC shall provide all logistical and technical assistance in that regard to the High Courts.
- 12 The Petition shall stand disposed of in the above terms.
- 13 Pending applications, if any, stand disposed of.

### Writ Petition (Civil) No 1040 of 2019

- 1 In view of the orders which have been passed in Writ Petition (Civil) No 1325 of 2020, there shall be a direction to all the State governments/Union Territories to set up and operationalize online web portals so that information sought under the Right to Information Act 2005 is made available in respect of all public authorities falling within their jurisdiction. This exercise shall be completed within a period of three months from the date of this order.
- 2 The Petition is accordingly disposed of.

3 Pending applications, if any, stand disposed of.

.....CJI. [Dr Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud]

[Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha]

[J B Pardiwala]

New Delhi; March 20, 2023 <sub>CKB</sub>

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ITEM NO.21

COURT NO.1

SECTION PIL-W

# SUPREME COURT OF INDIA RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

# Writ Petition (Civil) No.1040/2019

PRAVASI LEGAL CELL

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

WITH <u>W.P.(C) No.1325/2020 (PIL-W)</u> W.P.(C) No.990/2021 (PIL-W)

Date : 20-03-2023 These petitions were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PAMIDIGHANTAM SRI NARASIMHA HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA

For Petitioner(s) WPC 1040/2019	Mr. Jose Abraham, AOR Ms. Anjali Mohan, Adv. Ms. Anju Thomas, Adv.
WPC 1325/2020 & WPC 990/2021	Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Adv. Mr. E.C. Agrawala, AOR
For Respondent(s)	Mrs. Madhavi Divan, ASG Ms. Nidhi Khanna, Adv. Mr. P.V.Yogeswaran, Adv. Mr. Rajat Nair, Adv. Mr. S.S. Rebello, Adv. Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

Ms. Madhvi Divan, A.S.G. Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR Mr. P.V. Yogeswaran, Adv. Mr. S.S. Rebello, Adv. Ms. Nidhi Khanna, Adv. Mr. B.K. Satija, Adv. Mr. Tanmaya Agarwal, AOR Mr. Wrick Chatterjee, Adv. Mrs. Aditi Agarwal, Adv. Mr. V.K. Shukla, Sr. Adv. Mr. Adarsh Upadhyay, AOR Mr. Aman Pathak, Adv. Ms. Pallavi Kumari, Adv. Mr. Yashvardhan, Adv. Ms. Smita Kant, Adv. Mr. Apoorv Shukla, AOR Mr. Puneet Chahar, Adv. Ms. Prabhleen A. Shukla, Adv. Dr. Monika Gusain, AOR Mr. Ajay Pal, AOR Ms. Uttara Babbar, AOR Mr. Prashant Shrikant Kenjale, AOR Mr. Abhinav Mukerji, AOR Mr. Akshay C. Shrivastava, Adv. Mrs. Bihu Sharma, Adv. Ms. Pratishtha Vij, Adv. Mr. Kunal Chatterji, AOR Ms. Maitrayee Banerjee, Adv. Mr. Rohit Bansal, Adv. Ms. Kshitij Singh, Adv. Mrs. Niranjana Singh, AOR Mr. Saket Singh, Adv.

Ms. Madhumita Bhattacharjee, AOR Ms. Urmila Kar Purkayastha, Adv. Ms. Arushi Mishra, Adv. Ms. Piyali Paul, Adv. Mr. Sandeep, Adv. Mr. Apoorv Kurup, AOR Ms. Nidhi Mittal, Adv. Mr. V.N. Raghupathy, AOR Mr. Manendra Pal Gupta, Adv. Mr. Dhanesh Ieshdhan, Adv. Mr. Varun Varma, Adv. Mr. Romy Chacko, AOR Ms. Sneha Kalita, AOR Mr. Mahfooz Ahsan Nazki, AOR Mr. Polanki Gowtham, Adv. Mr. T Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, Adv. Mr. Ms. Niti Richhariya, Adv. Ms. Niti Richhariya, Adv. Mr. K.V. Girish Chowdary, Adv. Mr. S. Udaya Kumar Sagar, AOR Mr. Nikhil Goel, AOR Mr. Sabarish Subramanian, Adv. Mr. Vishnu Unnikrishnan, Adv. Dr. Joseph Aristotle S., AOR Ms. Radhika Gautam, AOR Mr. Sahil Tagotra, AOR Mr. Abhishek Pandey, Adv. Ms. Sakshi Garg, Adv. Mr. Gajendra Singh Negi, Adv. Mr. Abhay Sahay, A.A.G. Mr. Kameshwarnath Mishra, Adv.

Ms. Mrinal Gopal Elker, AOR Mr. P.V. Yogeshwaran, AAG Mr. Sunny Choudhary, AOR Mr. Yashraj Singh Bundela, Adv. Mr. Sandeep Sharma, Adv. Mr. Tapesh Kumar Singh, AOR Mr. Aditya Pratap Singh, Adv. Mr. Prashant Bhardwaj, Adv. Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, AOR Mrs. Anu K Joy, Adv. Mr. Alim Anvar, Adv. Ms. Deepanwita Priyanka, AOR Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, Adv. Ms. Devyani Bhatt, Adv. Mr. G.V. Chandrashekar, Sr. Adv. Mr. N.K. Verma, Adv. Ms. Anjana Chandrashekar, AOR Mr. T.G. Narayanan Nair, AOR Ms. Swathi H. Prasad, Adv. Ms. Aswathi M.k., AOR Mr. S.C. Verma, Sr. Adv. Mr. Sumeer Sodhi, AOR Ms. Tanya Verma, Adv. Mr. Arjun Garg, AOR Mr. Aakash Nandolia, Adv. Ms. Sagun Srivastava, Adv. Mr. Abhay Anil Anturkar, Adv. Mr. Dhruv Tank, Adv. M/s. Dr. R.R. Deshpande & Associates Mr. R. Ayyam Perumal, AOR

Mr. A. Renganath, Adv.

Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, AOR Ms. Eliza Barr, Adv. Mr. Mahesh Thakur, AOR Mr. Maibam Nabaghanashyam Singh, Adv. Mr. Maibam Nabaghanashyam Singh, AOR Mr. Shakti K Pattanaik, Adv. Mr. Kumar Kartikey, Adv. Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR Mr. Deepayan Dutta, Adv. Mr. Shashank Sai, Adv. Mr. Sanjai Kumar Pathak, AOR Mr. Arvind Kumar Tripathi, Adv. Mrs. Shashi Pathak, Adv. Mr. Sibo Sankar Mishra, AOR Mr. Sunil Mund, Adv. Mr. Umakant Misra, Adv. Ms. Apoorva Sharma, Adv. Mr. Niranjan Sahu, Adv. Mr. Debabrata Dash, Adv. Mr. Ranjan Mukherjee, AOR Mr. Gaurav Agrawal, AOR Ms. Astha Sharma, AOR Mr. Srisatya Mohanty, Adv. Mr. Sanjeev Kaushik, Adv. Ms. Mantika Haryani, Adv. Mr. Shreyas Awasthi, Adv. Mr. Himanshu Chakravarty, Adv. Ms. Ripul Swati Kumari, Adv. Mr. Bhanu Mishra, Adv. Mr. Devvrat Singh, Adv. Ms. Muskan Surana, Adv.

Ms. K. Enatoli Sema, AOR Ms. Limayinla Jamir, Adv. Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv. Ms. Chubalemla Chang, Adv. Mr. Prang Newmai, Adv. Mr. Mukul Kumar, AOR Mr. Vishnu Sharma, Adv. Ms. Madhusmita Bora, AOR Mr. Dipankar Singh, Adv. Mrs. Anupama Sharma, Adv. Mr. Bir Inder Singh Gurm, Adv. Mr. Avneesh Arputham, Adv. Ms. Anuradha Arputham, Adv. M/s. Arputham Aruna & Co. Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv. Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv. Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR Mr. Bharat Bagla, Adv. Mr. Sourav Singh, Adv. Mr. Som Raj Choudhury, AOR Mr. Naresh K. Sharma, AOR Mrs. D. Bharathi Reddy, AOR Mr. Anand Shankar, AOR Mr. Tarun Kumar, Adv. Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR Ms. Nishi Sangtani, Adv. Ms. Vani Vandana Chhetri, Adv. Mr. Vishnu Sharma, AOR Mr. Jatinder Kumar Bhatia, AOR

# UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following O R D E R

# Writ Petition (C) No 1040 of 2019 & Writ Petition (C) No 1325 of 2020

- 1 The Petitions are disposed in terms of the signed order.
- 2 Pending applications, if any, stand disposed of.

### Writ Petition (Civil) No 990 of 2021

- 1 All the States which have not filed their replies until date are granted further period of three weeks to file their responses.
- 2 Ms Madhavi Divan, Additional Solicitor General also seeks time to put in her response on behalf of the Department of Personnel Training of the Union of India within three weeks.
- 3 Soft copies of the response shall be shared with the petitioner, who appears in person.
- 4 All the States who have filed their replies are permitted to file updated status report, if so required.
- 5 List the Petition on 14 April 2023.

(CHETAN KUMAR)(SAROJ KUMARI GAUR)A.R.-cum-P.S.Assistant Registrar(Signed order is placed on the file)