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भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING  
मत्स्यपालन विभाग/ DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES  
केन्द्रीय मात्स्यिकी तटवर्ती इंजीनियरी संस्थान  
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF COASTAL ENGINEERING FOR FISHERY  
ईस्रोआवास के सामने, जालहल्ली, बेंगलूर 560 013  
Opp. to ISRO Qrts., Jalahalli, Bengaluru-560 013

संदर्भ सं./ Ref No. I-35/2023-CEF दिनांक/Dated 02<sup>nd</sup> September, 2025

Before the Appellate Authority  
(Under the Right to Information Act, 2005)

B Thyagaraja, BA, LLB, Advocate : Appellant

Vs

दिनांक... जारी किया र...  
Issued on 02/09/2025

CPIO, CICEF, Bangalore : Respondent

**ORDER**

This order disposes of the first appeal filed by the appellant under Section 19(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, in connection with the RTI application dated 07.07.2025 seeking:

- "Letters submitted by various states to the CICEF for structural design (Maritime structures) of Fishery Harbours (FH)/Fish Landing Centres (FLC) from 01.01.2013 to till date."
- "Name and States of the FH/FLC structures (Maritime structures), designed by CICEF from 01.01.2013 to till date."
- "Name of the Junior Engineers who designed FH/FLC structures (Maritime structures) from 01.01.2013 to till date. Their Calculation sheets/design reports, by Name, structure and year wise."

## Examination of Records

The matter has been carefully examined. The CPIO, in his reply dated 17.07.2025, informed the appellant that the information requested is voluminous, spread across multiple files and physical records are maintained project-wise and state-wise over a span of more than 12 years. Therefore, as per Section 7(9) of the RTI Act, 2005, the applicant was requested to inspect the records at CICEF, Bengaluru, identify the specific documents required, and obtain copies upon payment of applicable charges.

## Analysis of Appeal Claims

The appellant contends that the information sought falls within the scope of Section 2(j) of the RTI Act and that under Section 4(1)(a), records must be catalogued and indexed. It is further argued that invoking Section 7(9) amounts to denial of information.

It is clarified that the information has not been denied. The RTI Act does not obligate the CPIO to compile or extract data from a vast set of unindexed physical records if such effort would disproportionately divert the resources of the public authority. The Act permits facilitating access to such records through inspection, which remains fully compliant with its objectives.

This position is supported by several authoritative decisions:

- a. CIC/AD/A/2013/001326-SA – Shri B.L. Wadera v. NDMC

*“If the information sought is voluminous and not available in the form requested, the CPIO may allow inspection of records under Section 7(9).”*

- b. CIC/SG/C/2011/000802 – Mr. Vijay Sharma v. Directorate of Education

*“When large volumes of records are involved, offering inspection is a valid mode of providing access.”*

- c. CIC/DS/A/2011/001299 – P.K. Srivastava v. MHA

*“If the information is scattered across several files, it is not mandatory for the PIO to extract or compile it. Offering inspection is sufficient compliance.”*

- d. Delhi High Court in *Poorna Prajna Public School v. CIC & Ors.* [W.P.(C) 7265/2011]

*“Section 7(9) allows the authority to provide information in a manner that does not disproportionately divert its resources. Offering inspection in such cases is appropriate.”*

**Decision:**

In light of the above, the appeal is disposed of with the following directions:

1. The reply of the CPIO dated 17.07.2025 is found to be in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 and is hereby upheld.
2. The appellant is advised to visit the CICEF office for inspection of records on any working day from 17<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 at 11.30 AM, with at least two days' prior intimation, to enable necessary arrangements.
3. After identifying the specific documents, photocopies will be furnished on payment of the prescribed fees under the RTI Rules.

This order is issued under the authority vested in the undersigned as First Appellate Authority under Section 19(1) of the RTI Act, 2005.

As per section 19 (3) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, the appellant, if not satisfied may file appeal to the Second Appellate Authority within 90 days of issue of this order, whose particulars are given below:

Central Information Commission  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 'B' Wing, August Kranti Bhawan,  
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi – 110 066.

*Sd/-*

(N. RAVI SANKAR)  
**DIRECTOR & FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY**

सेवा में /To,

**Shri B Thyagaraja**, BA, LLB, Advocate  
No. 5/1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room No. 18, S.L.N. Mahal,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Cross, Sampige Road, Malleswaram, **Bengaluru** - 560003

**Copy to** Shri. N. K. Patra, Deputy Director (Eco) and CPIO, CICEF, Bengaluru.

*O/c*

*N. Ravi Sankar*

(N. RAVI SANKAR)  
**DIRECTOR & FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY**