

Govt makes assets of IAS, KAS officers public

Srinagar, Nov 30: The Government has made assets of the IAS and KAS officers public via official website of General Administration Department (GAD).

Earlier the Public Information Officer (PIO) as well as the first appellate authority of GAD had denied making the assets of IAS and KAS officers public in response to the application filed by Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat Convener J&K RTI Movement earlier this year under Right to Information Act (RTI Act).

BACKGROUND

In response to an RTI application seeking details of the annual property statements of the IAS and KAS officers in Jammu and Kashmir, the GAD had cited that this information cannot be provided as the same is expected under section 8 (f) and (i) of the Right to Information Act, 2009.

"Section 8 (i) of the RTI Act, 2009, inter alia provides that the information which relates to the personal information, disclosure of which would have no relationship to any public activity or interest or which would cause unwarranted invasion of privacy of the individual cannot be disclosed unless the Public Information Officer or the appellate authority is satisfied that the larger public interest justifies the disclosure of such information," the GAD order, issued on February 10, 2011, reads. "The information being sought by the appellant about the property statements of IAS/KAS officers of the JK being confidential, the disclosure of which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individuals, besides, the supply of the information to the appellant shall not serve larger public interest and has no relationship to any public activity."

Therefore, the order had mentioned that the appeal filed by the appellant is disallowed as being without any merit.

SIC'S ORDER TO DECLARE THE ASSETS INFORMATION

In September this year the State Information Commission (SIC) while disposing off the complaint filed by Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat against the General Administration Department, the CIC ruled that the "commission holds that they [GAD] should host such immovable property details of officers which are owned and acquired by them out of their own sources of income on government website."


Pertinently, the order passed by the SIC was not implemented in letter and spirit by the GAD and the same was reported by Greater Kashmir on November 15.

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