

BEFORE THE REGISTRAR OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES – CUM – FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY
UNDER THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005.

First Appeal No.21/2025

Present : Thiru. S.YESVANTHAIYAH

Registrar of Cooperative Societies–cum-First Appellate Authority.

R. Ramakichenane,
C/o.R. Lakshmi Nayanan,
No.20, Kambatham Street,
Pandasozhanallor,
Nettapakkam Post, Puducherry – 605106.

>>>> Appellant

Vs

The President -cum- Public Information Officer,
The Pondicherry Govt. Group 'B' & 'C'
Staff Co-op. Credit Society Ltd.,
Head office, No.204, East-coast Road,
Olandaikeerapalayam, Mudaiarpet Post,
Puducherry – 605 004.

>>>> Respondent

ORDER

(Issued under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005)

The appellant submitted an application dated 19.08.2025, under Section 6 of the Right to information Act, 2005, (hereafter “the Act”) to the respondent and sought for certain information from the respondent. The respondent society did not furnish any reply to the appellant.

2. Aggrieved by the non response of the respondent society, the appellant filed this first appeal dated 24.09.2025 which was received in this office on 26.09.2025.

3. The response of the respondent-society was called for vide notice dated 06.10.2025. The respondent-society furnished its response vide letter dated 07.10.2025 (**Copy Enclosed**). On perusal, it is observed that the respondent-society has stated that,

“based on the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has issued the list of Co-op. Societies vide circular dated 23.12.2014 which have been directed to entertain the applications and dispose the same in accordance with the Act. Since, the The Pondicherry Govt. Group 'B' & 'C' Staff Co-op. Credit Society Ltd. has not been included in the list and does not cover under the RTI Act, 2005. Hence the bank not furnished the information sought by the applicant”

4. From the above, it is evident that, the respondent-society would not be a Public Authority in view of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies Circular No.RCS/CLC/SFCS/2014/172, dt. 23.12.2014. In the judgment of the case “Thalappalam Service Co-operative Bank Ltd., and others Vs State of Kerala and others”, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India ruled that, cooperative societies, registered under the Kerala Cooperative Societies Act, would not be Public authorities in the absence of materials to show that they are owned, controlled or substantially financed by the appropriate Government. Based on the said decision of the Hon'ble Apex Court, the Co-operative Department, Puducherry issued a Circular dated 23.12.2014, whereby, 260 cooperative societies, which are substantially funded by the Government, were identified for coverage within the definition of the “Public Authorities” under Section 2(h) of the Act. The respondent-society was not included in the said circular.

5. It is observed that, the respondent-society has rightly contended that, they are not "Public Authority" in line with the said Circular dated 23.12.2014. Hence, the respondent-society doesn't fall under the purview of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

6. In view of the reasons stated above, the appeal lacks merits, and hence, dismissed.

7. Further, It is found that the respondent-society has failed to furnish their reply within the stipulated time limit of 30 days and has furnished their information after the appellant came for First Appeal. If the respondent furnished his reply to the appellant within the stipulated time limit of 30 days, this first appeal wouldn't be preferred by the appellant.

8. Hence, ***the respondent is directed to meticulously adhere the provisions of the said Act, in letter and spirit, and henceforth dispose of the applications under the said Act within the stipulated time limit of 30 days; failing which the respondent will be subjected to legal consequences as per the penal provisions of the said Act***

9. If aggrieved by this decision, a 2nd Appeal may be filed, under Section 19(3) of the Act, within 90 days, with the 2nd Appellate Authority, whose address is given below:

Central Information Commissioner
Room No.305.II Floor, "B" Wing, August Kranti Bhavan
Bhikaji Cama Place, NEW DELHI-110 066.

Dated at Puducherry on the 14th day of October 2025.



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(S.YESVANTHAIYAH)
Registrar of Cooperative Societies-cum-
First Appellate Authority

To:

1. The Appellant.
2. The Respondent.
- ✓ 3. The Web Editor, Cooperative Dept., Puducherry.
4. Stock File 2025.