

CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION

Room No. 308, B-Wing, August Kranti Bhawan, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066

File No.CIC/LS/A/2009/000933

Appellant : Shri Vinod Kumar Sharma
Public Authority : Income Tax Department, Meerut
(through Shri Sunil Bajpai, Addl. CIT)
Date of Hearing : 9.2.2010
Date of Decision : 9.2.2010

FACTS :

Vide RTI application dated 1.3.2009, the appellant had sought copies of the ITRs of Bhawani Cold Storage Pvt Ltd, Meerut, for AYs 2006-07 to 2008-09 and copies of the balance-sheet etc for the said period. This information was declined by CPIO vide order dated 31.3.2009 on the ground that it was a third party information. The first AA vide order dated 29.8.2009 had affirmed the decision of CPIO.

2. The present appeal is directed against the order of CPIO/AA. The matter was called for hearing on 31.12.2009 but was adjourned on the request of Income Tax Department. As scheduled the matter is called for hearing today dated 9.2.2010. Appellant not present. The public authority is represented by the officer named above. Shri Bajpai justifies the decisions of CPIO and AA on the ground that the appellant has sought 'personal information' which is barred from disclosure u/s 8 (1) (j) of the RTI Act.

3. It is to be noted that this issue had come up before a Five Member Bench of this Commission in File No CIC/AT/A/2009/00628 (Milap Choraria Vs CBDT) and the Commission vide its decision dated 15.6.2009 had held that ITRs are, indeed, 'personal information' and, therefore, exempted from disclosure u/s 8 (1) (j) of the RTI Act.

DECISION

4. In view of the above, I find no infirmity in the decisions of CPIO and AA. The appeal is dismissed.

Sd/-
(M.L. Sharma)
Central Information Commissioner

Authenticated true copy. Additional copies of orders shall be supplied against application and payment of the charges, prescribed under the Act, to the CPIO of this Commission.

(K.L. Das)
Assistant Registrar

Address of parties :-

1. Shri Sunil Bajpai
Addl CIT,
Income Tax Department,
Circle-I, Meerut,

2. Shri Vinod Kumar Sharma
S/o ShriMunshi Lal,
1440 Brahmpuri, Meerut, UP.