

ഒരു ഓഫീസിനുള്ളിൽ ഒന്നിലേറെ പബ്ലിക് ഇൻഫർമേഷൻ ഓഫീസർമാരുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവർ തമ്മിൽ വകുപ്പ് 6(3) പ്രകാരം അപേക്ഷ കൈമാറാൻ കഴിയില്ല

Before I deal with the appeal, it is necessary to clarify certain aspects of the provisions of the RTI Act, in view of the stand taken by the Ministry of Company Affairs that each CPIO is a separate public authority and information within his jurisdiction has to be obtained only from him by an applicant. Even though, in terms of Section 5(1) & (2) of RTI Act, a public authority could designate as many CPIOs/ACPIOs, the Act does not confer any specific jurisdiction in respect of each such officer either in terms of geographical or subject wise or the like. The Act also does not prescribe that each CPIO is a separate public authority by himself. He is only a part of the public authority which has designated him as such. The object of designation of many CPIOs/ACPIOs is only with the view that the citizens have a proximity of approach. Once a citizen applies to a CPIO of a public authority, irrespective of where and with whom the information is available within the same public authority, it is the duty of that CPIO to furnish the information sought for in relation to that public authority, if necessary by obtaining the same from the concerned CPIO with whom the information sought may be available. There is no scope to either ask the citizen to approach another CPIO within the same public authority or send the request for information to another CPIO with in the same public authority. Only in a case, where the information sought is held by another public authority, other than the one which has designated him as CPIO, he can transfer the request to that public authority for furnishing information to the applicant direct (Section 6(3))