No. CVC/RTI/Misc/10/002 Central Vigilance Commission

Satarkta Bhawan, Block-'A' G.P.O. Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023 Dated: 15.07.2010

Circular No. 26/07/010

Subject:

Disclosure of movement/tour details of the officers/officials working in the vigilance departments of the Govt organizations.

The attention of the CVOs concerned is drawn to the <u>Central Information Commission's</u> decision dated 16.09.2009 in case No. <u>CIC/AT/A/2009/000100</u> in the case of <u>Shri Nihar Ranjan Banerjee</u>, <u>CVO & Shri Bidya Nand Mishra</u>, <u>DGM (Vig)</u>, <u>Coal Indian Limited Vs Shri M. N. Ghosh</u>, in which the issue of disclosure of movement/tour details and TA bills of the officers/officials working in the vigilance departments of the Govt Organization has been considered/debated by the <u>Central Information Commission</u>.

2. The Central Information Commission, in its decision, had observed that:-

"I agree with the review-petitioners, given the specific circumstances and conditions surrounding the set of information now requested by the appellant, viz. tour details, vehicle logbooks, purpose of visits, overtime payments, etc., no public interest is served by their disclosure. On the contrary, there is a distinct possibility that disclosure of this information will compromise the functioning of the Vigilance Officers the review-petitioners and not only expose them to physical risks and intimidations, but impair their ability to carry-out their sensitive assignments. Certain level of protection needs to be given to such officers even in respect of disclosure of ordinary looking information for, what is seemingly ordinary, assumes the characteristics of the extraordinary in specific circumstances and conditions, which according to me, are present in this case."

"As has been explained by the review-petitioners, in the circumstances and the atmosphere in which they work and the specificity of their sensitive assignment, the requested information had the potentiality of endangering the officers' life and their physical safety, apart from leading to identification of the source of information or assistance given in confidence for discharge of their law-enforcement functions as Vigilance Officers."

3. The <u>Central Information Commission</u>, had, on the basis of above observations decided that movement/tour details and TA bills of the officers/officials working in the vigilance departments of the Govt Organization should **not** be disclosed, keeping in view the provisions contained under Section 8(1)(g) of the RTI Act.

The CVOs may bring the above quoted decision of the <u>Central Information</u> <u>Commission</u> to the notice of all the CPIOs/Appellate Authorities of their organization, who may consider the <u>Central Information Commission</u>'s decision, while deciding about the RTI Applications seeking tour/movement details of the officers/officials working in the vigilance organizations. (The complete decision of the <u>Central Information</u> Commission in case No. <u>CIC/AT/A/2009/000100</u> is available on its website, www.cic.gov.in, in downloadable form and can be accessed from there).

[Rajiv Verma] Under Secretary & Nodal CPIO

To,

All Chief Vigilance Offices