

**CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION**  
**Baba Gang Nath Marg, Munirka**  
**New Delhi -110067**  
**Tel : +91-11-26186535**

**Appeal No. CIC/PMOIN/A/2017/103505**

Appellant: Ayub Ali,

Respondent: Central Public Information Officer  
Under Secy., Prime Minister's Office,  
South Block, New Delhi-110011.

Date of Hearing: 18.01.2018

Dated of Decision: 18.01.2018

**ORDER**

**Facts:**

1. The appellant filed RTI application dated 23.04.2016 seeking information regarding govt. expenses incurred on the foreign visits of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi from June, 2014 to March, 2016 viz. no. of foreign visits and non-govt. persons who accompanied him; details of monthly expenses of his residence/office; procedure for meeting the PM; no. of meetings held by the PM with public at his residence/office; no. of electoral public meetings addressed by him and the govt. expenditure thereon.etc.
2. The CPIO responded on 06.05.2016. The appellant filed first appeal on 08.06.2016. The FAA responded on 10.08.2016. The appellant filed second appeal on 17.01.2017 before the Commission on the ground that information should be provided to him.

**Hearing:**

3. The appellant participated in the hearing through video conferencing. Mr. Parveen Kumar (Under Secy., RTI, PMO) represented the respondent in person.
4. The appellant stated that incomplete information has been provided to him. Further, he stated that the respondent should supply him the sought for budget details, instead of referring to the web-link. In addition, he stated that

the respondent should provide him details of non-govt. persons who were part of the Prime Minister's foreign visits. He also sought for the no. of meetings with the public that were held by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi.

5. The respondent stated that the information already available in the public domain can very well be referred through the relevant web-link in light of the decision of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in W.P.(C) 11271/2009 dated 01.06.2012 titled as *Registrar of Companies & Ors. v. Dharmendra Kumar Garg & Anr.*, wherein, it was observed as under:-

“12. ...Once the information is brought into the public domain it is excluded from the purview of the RTI Act and, the right to access this category of information shall be on the basis of whether the public authority discloses it free, or at such cost of the medium or the print cost price "as may be prescribed". The Act therefore vests in the public authority the power and the right to prescribe the mode of access to voluntarily disclosed information, i.e. either free or at a prescribed cost / price.

13. The respondents are right therefore in arguing that since they had placed in the public domain a large part of the information requested by the appellant and prescribed the price of accessing that information either on the internet or through inspection of documents, the ground rules of accessing this information shall be determined by the decision of the public authority and not the RTI Act and the Rules. That is to say, such information shall not be covered by the provisions about fee and cost of supply of information as laid down in Section 7 of the RTI Act and the Rules thereof.”

6. Further, the respondent stated that the composition of the Prime Minister's team cannot be revealed to the appellant on 'national security' grounds. In addition, he stated that budget details are already available on their website, which the appellant may access on the given web-link. Besides, he stated that they do not have records of electoral meetings held by the Prime Minister. In this regard, they have furnished a reply to the appellant on 28.07.2016. The reply given was read out and was found to be satisfactory.

**Discussion/ observation:**

7. The Commission is of the view that the name/list of the non-govt. persons (having no connection with the security) who had accompanied the Hon'ble Prime Minister on his international visits at public cost from June, 2014 to March, 2016 should be provided to the appellant, within 30 days from the date of receipt of this order.

**Decision:**

8. The respondent is directed to take action as per para 7 above.

The appeal is disposed of. Copy of the order be given to the parties free of cost.

**(Radha Krishna Mathur)**  
**Chief Information Commissioner**

**Authenticated true copy**

**(S.C. Sharma)**  
**Dy. Registrar**