

By Hand

File No. MoES/29/74/2015-RTI

Government of India  
Ministry of Earth Sciences

Prithvi Bhawan, IMD Campus  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi.  
Dated – 15/07/2015.

To

Dr. S. Kathirola, Scientist 'G'  
Room No. 310, MoES,  
New Delhi.

Subject :- Information sought by Dr. S. Kathirola, Scientist 'G' Room No. 310, MoES, New Delhi under RTI Act.2005.

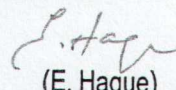
Kindly refer to your RTI application dated 25/06/2015 on the above mentioned subject.

2. The reply provided by the concerned officer vide letter No Nil dated 15/7/2015 of Ministry Earths Sciences, New Delhi is enclosed herewith.
3. An appeal, if any, against this reply may be made to the Appellate Authority of the Ministry, at the following address within 30 days of the receipt of the letter.

Shri Vivek Misra, Director /FAA.  
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Prithvi Bhawan,  
IMD Campus, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.

Encl. As above.

Yours faithfully,



(E. Haque)

Central Public Information Officer & Scientist 'C'  
Tel. No. 24669521.

Copy for information to:-

1. Director, (ICC) & FAA MoES, New Delhi.
2. Dr. M. Sudhakar, Transparency Officer, MoES, New Delhi.
3. Under Secretary (Estt.), MoES, New Delhi for information.
4. PPS to JS, MoES, New Delhi.
- ✓ 5. In Charge IT Section (Sh. Krishnan is requested to upload this reply on website [www.moes.gov.in](http://www.moes.gov.in)).

Declassified on 13/7/15.

~~Top Secret~~  
(Dr. M.P. Wakdikar)  
CVO

**Earth System Science Organisation  
Ministry of Earth Sciences**

The proposal relates to the request received from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), New Delhi, seeking permission U/s 6(A)(1) of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, to investigate the role of Dr.S.Kathiroli, former Director, National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai in RC.38(A)/2011 in commission of said irregularities.

F/A

2. The gist of the issue is that a case was registered by the CBI against Shri G.Janakiraman, the then Manager, Vessel Management Centre (VMC), NIOT and M/s Vik Sandvik, a Norwegian Consultant company alleging that Shri G.Janakiraman while functioning as Manager, VMC, in criminal conspiracy with M/s Vik Sandvik had falsely certified four invoices submitted by M/s Vik Sandvik in the consultancy contract awarded to them without completion of required consultancy work cheating NIOT for Rs.4,37,31,891/- and causing wrongful loss to NIOT and corresponding wrongful gain to M/s Vik Sandvik.

3. During the investigation, the CBI found that the scope of construction and technical specification of TDV was changed after opening the price bids for the reason that L1 price bid of M/s Fincanteri was much higher than the allocated budget amount of Rs.155 crores. However, the amount quoted by the selected bidder M/s Fincanteri was Rs.320,97,60,000 in its tender price bid.

4. The CBI further found that Dr.Kathiroli, instead of reporting receipt of such price bid from L1 exceeding the allocated funds to the Ministry and asking for further course of action, suo moto entered into negotiations with the firm by drastically reducing the scope and technical specifications of the ship to be built to reduce the price to somehow award the ship construction contract to the firm. It has been recorded by CBI that Dr.Kathiroli entered into negotiations with the officials of M/s Fincanteri at a hotel in Cochin on 10.2.2005 deciding to reduce the scope and technical specification of TDV. The Ministry is not aware of such meeting between Dr.Kathiroli & M/s Fincanteri officials.

5. In addition to the above, the CBI has found various gross violations committed in the tender procedure like accepting the price bid of L1 without breakup of prices for individual items in each group by which perfect comparison of prices of L1 and L2 was not

For Sh. E. Haque, CP/16  
w.r.t. his letter  
dt 28/06/15 (Dr. Kathiroli)  
All ready  
15/7/15



19  
(S.M.P. Wakditar  
CVO

possible when scope of work was changed, vital technical specifications of various criteria important for functioning of underwater scientific instruments was drastically relaxed and reduced.

6. In view of above, CBI is of the opinion that it is necessary to investigate the role played by Dr.S.Kathirolu, the then Director, NIOT, Chennai, in commission of said irregularities.

7. Accordingly, the proposal for granting permission to the CBI to investigate the role of Dr.S.Kathirolu, the then Director, NIOT, Chennai, presently working as Scientist-G in the Ministry, in RC.38(A)/2011 in commission of said irregularities, is submitted for kind consideration of Honourable Minister for Earth Sciences.

*Sar*  
(S.K.Das)  
Chief Vigilance Officer  
05.12.2012

Secretary

Recommended - to grant permission to investigate the role of Dr. S. Kathirolu.

*Sar*  
Tie

Minister

*Sar* 11/12/12

*Sar* 12/12

Secy (E.S.)

