

Shri. H. Arokkiaaraj,
C-62, Lower Ground Floor,
Jangpura,
New Delhi - 110014

13th November 2014

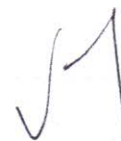
Kindly refer to your RTI application with Registration No. PMOIN/R/2014/60792 and file number RTI/551/916/2014.

2. The Question-wise response to the RTI application is as follows:

- i) Kindly provide date wise all communication letters between late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister N. Karunanidhi regarding Katchatheevu or Palk Bay
- ii) Provide copy of Queen Victoria's Proclamation 1858 with regard to Katchatheevu or Palk Bay.
- iii) Provide copy of Colombo Pact 1921 with regard to Katchatheevu or Palk Bay
- iv) Separately provide date wise copies of minutes and notes of meetings conducted by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi before signing Indo Sri Lankan Agreement 1974 (Palk Bay) and Indo Sri Lankan Agreement 1976 (Gulf of Mannar and Bay of Bengal)
- v) Separately provide date wise copies of minutes and notes of meetings conducted by Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Tamil Nadu Government before signing Indo Sri Lankan Agreement 1974 (Palk Bay) and Indo Sri Lankan Agreement 1976 (Gulf of Mannar and Bay of Bengal)
- vi) Whether Tamil Nadu Government led by former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi accepted Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi decision for handing over Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka. If yes, kindly provide all supporting documents relating to this.
- vii) Whether Tamil Nadu Government led by former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi accepted Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi decision for handing over Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka. If no, kindly provide all supporting documents relating to this.
- viii) Provide the copy of report/ research paper submitted by Professor S. Krishnaswamy of Madras Law College on Katchatheevu issue. Period for information: 1973 to 1974
- ix) Kindly provide copies of documents relating to steps taken by PMO regarding the Tamil Nadu Assembly resolution on conducting referendum on Eelam Issue (Sri Lanka)
- x) Kindly provide copies of documents taken by PMO or Concern Ministries from Ramanathapuram Collectorate regarding Katchatheevu.
- xi) Kindly provide copy of lease agreement between British India Government and Ramanathapuram King regarding Katchatheevu.
- xii) Kindly provide copy of lease agreement between Indian Government (Post Independent) and Ramanathapuram King regarding Katchatheevu.
- xiii) Kindly provide list of documents submitted by Ramanathapuram King to Government of India during Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The information sought above pertains to delineation of India-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). Applicant is requested to note that the Katchatheevu Island lies on the Sri Lankan side of the India-Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) that was delineated by the 1974 Agreement "(Agreement on the boundary in historic waters between the two countries and related Matters (with map). Signed at Colombo on 26 June 1974, and at New Delhi on 28 June 1974)". Under the Agreement, Indian fishermen are allowed access to Katchatheevu Island for rest, for drying of nets and for the annual St. Anthony's festival. The Katchatheevu Island issue is, however, currently sub-judice with two Writ Petitions [Nos. 561 (2008) and 430 (2013)] filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. It may also be noted that, the issues of Katchatheevu and IMBL pertain to the Government of Sri Lanka, a friendly neighbouring country. In this context, the disclosure of the requested document/ information would prejudicially affect India's relations with a foreign state. Hence, the information sought above would fall under the purview of section 8 (1) (a) of RTI Act of 2005 and would be exempted from disclosure.

3. In case you prefer to appeal, you may write to Smt. Suchitra Durai, Joint Secretary (SM & IOR) & Appellate Authority, SM & IOR Division, Ministry of External Affairs, South Block, New Delhi – 110011 within a month from the date of receipt of this letter.



Vishwesh Negi
Deputy Secretary (Sri Lanka) & CPIO,
Room No. 40C,
Ministry of External Affairs,
South Block, New Delhi - 110011
Ph: 23013036
Fax: 23014717

Copy to:

1. US (RTI). W.r.t. RTI Cell OM No. RTI/551/916/2014