

## ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001.

No. 4/RTI/02/2011-Estt II

Dated 18-04-2011

To,

The Editor,  
Times of India,  
Chennai Edition, Chennai.

**Subject:- News report titled 'Poll Panel turns down plea on CEC asset details' published in Times of India, Chennai edition, on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011-rejoinder.**

Sir,

The Commission's attention has been drawn to the news report titled 'Poll Panel turns down plea on CEC asset details' published in Times of India, Chennai edition, on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and some subsequent communications received by the Commission following the publication of the news report.

The news report is based on a RTI query and reply given by the Commission's Secretariat thereto. The CPIO concerned in the ECI Secretariat has made a reply to the applicant on the basis of provisions of RTI Act, which stipulates providing information available on record, and not creating of further information which is not already on records. It is a fact that property statements of CEC or ECs are not maintained in the Commission. As it has happened, the officials concerned of the Commission have given the factual position to the RTI applicant, without bringing the case before the Commission or CEC. They did so in line with precedents in the matter.

It is clarified that the CEC, Dr S Y Quraishi did not have any knowledge whatsoever about the position taken by officials of the Commission and conveyed to the applicant in this RTI matter. In fact, he has now enquired from the officials concerned why the matter was not shown to him. Any allegation of his 'refusal' to disclose his assets is thus completely baseless.

On the substantial issue of disclosure, Dr S Y Quraishi is of the clear view that information about the assets of the CEC should be in the public domain. He would like to do it voluntarily himself even if the law does not require it. Dr Quraishi is disappointed with some mails received by him subsequent to the publication of the aforesaid news report, that convey prejudices without caring to ascertain facts from him. He finds the controversy in the matter unseemly and would like to set the record straight.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(K. F. Wilfred)  
Secretary  
Tel: 011-23052026