

BR/2/2012/Board

13.11.2012

To,
Central Public Information Officer,
Railway Board,
Ministry of Railway,
Rail Mantralaya,
Raisina Road,
New Delhi – 110 001

Dear Sir,

Ref: Information under RTI Act

Sub : Information regarding Switzerland tour of CRB of Indian Railways Sri Vinay Mittal during a Railway Accident and his alleged opening of a Swissbank Account as reported by famous anti-corruption website and newspaper "Rail Samachar ?

I enclose herewith a Report, published in a newspaper called "Rail Samachar" in their internet edition . This report was written by the Editor of this newspaper in its site www.railsamachar.com During 01-06-2012 to 18-06-2012. This Report contains serious allegations of corruption and negligence about CRB who is one of the highest authorities of Indian Railways who controls the biggest Public Sector of India. Expenditure of crores of public money is done under the orders of the said Officer. After seeing this Report, we went through the content of this Internet newspaper to find out whether this Report is credible or not. The newspaper seems to be completely devoted to reporting news about Indian Railways and mostly seem to specialize in giving news about the corruption at highest places in this Sector. When we wanted to know more about this news piece by enquiring from some senior officer of Indian Railways I was told that even GMs listen to this person called Suresh Tripathi We were also informed that very Senior Officers of Indian Railways such as GMs, Members of Railway Board and CRBs of Central Railway tremble before him because he knows their corruption stories in detail. I was even told that this private businessman of Mumbai recently held a function or Seminar on Railways in May 2012 many Railway intellectuals like Sri Mahesh Kumar (GM of Western Railways) Sri Subodh Kumar Jain (GM of Central Railways) accepted his invitation and personally graced the occasion with their CPRO and officers. A Railway Officer who personally attended the meet organized by this website that these GMs posed for photographs with the website logo displayed on their chest and participated with some other speakers who criticized CRB's current policy and called the Railway Minister a thief and Ms Mamata Banerjees acts in Parliament a "naked dance".

When I rang up the CPRO , he confirmed that these Senior Officers had attended a Function called "Resurrection of Railways" or something like that. We also went through the Videos posted there in and got visual proofs of Senior Officers making speeches about Railways' 'internal' matters. Therefore we have reasons to believe that the said internet website and the internet Newspaper www.railsamachar.com has very high credibility especially in the matters of Railway 'corruption.

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Since the current report is about the highest officer of the largest public sector of this country and his attempt to open a Switzerland Bank account, it is in Public interest to find and information regarding the same. Therefore, I ask the following information under RTI about the current CRB.

1. Whether the CPRO of Railway Board is aware of a newspaper called "Rail Samachar" which publishes Railway based news?
2. Has the CPRO of Railway Board ever received a copy of this newspaper from its founder by the name Sri Suresh Tripathi ?
3. Does the CPRO of Railway Board officially subscribe to this newspaper titled Rail Samachar , published from Mumbai?
4. Whether the CPRO of Railway Board , New delhi is aware about the publication of a Report on the integrity and conduct of the Railway Chief , i.e CRB in the said Website www.railsamachar.com which also publishes and circulates a railway-based newspaper called "Rail Samachar" which was published in their Website from 7th June, 2012 to 18th June, 2012 (copy of the relevant news published in the said Newspaper's Website in the 1st fortnight of June, 2012 is enclosed)?
5. If the CPRO of Indian railway is aware of publication of such 'news', pertaining to their Highest Officer of the DGCA then has he brought it to the notice of the Chief, as a part of his mundane ?
6. Is the Chief aware about such damaging information regarding his conduct being published in the Website of the said Newspaper during 7th June, 2012 to 18th June, 2012?
7. If the CPRO is aware about publication of the said information regarding the Chief of Indian railway, then, whether any 'official' comment about this has been given to the Editor of the aforesaid Newspaper and his Website?
8. Does Railways agree either in the full or in part to the various allegations featured in the Website (copy enclosed) during the period 7th June, 2012 to 18th June, 2012?
9. Is it a fact that the Chief of the Indian railway, the CRB Sri Vinay Mittal had made Official tour to Switzerland during the period May-June 2012?
10. If so, the details of the same may please be furnished in the following format:

<i>Date of visit</i>	<i>Countries/Towns visited</i>	<i>Tour duration</i>

11. Did the Chief of Indian railway interacted with any Switzer Bank Officials during the aforesaid tour, undertaken by him to Europe, in any town or Switzerland or in any tow of other European cities?
12. Did he open, as alleged in the aforesaid Web publication, a Switzer Bank Account (in any Switzer Bank Branch such as UBS)?

Please note that this is a serious issue, involving alleged corruption at a very high place and featuring in a prestigious 'internet' newspaper Website (a Newspaper's Website, whose credibility is so high that two of the Senior Officers had attended its function, delivered speeches about Railways' internal 'finance' and accepted gifts from the Editor). If any attempt is made not to divulge the information in full (as is done to many RTI requests) I will have no other way but to approach and resend the same RTI through the humdinger RTI activists such as Sri Subhas Agarwal .

Encl.- as above.

Regards,



Bela Rai
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RTI fee of Rs 30/- is enclosed as RTI fee is Rs 10/- and xerox charges may be Rs20/-