

Ministry of External Affairs
Northern Division
(Nepal)

No. E-II/551/3/2005

09.10.2014

Shri Ankit Agrawal
C/o Mr. Sushil Suhag
Flat No. 204 B
House No. 367/B1,
Near Pal Dairy,
Munirka, New Delhi 110067

Sub: Information sought by Shri Ankit Agrawal under RTI Act, 2005

Dear Sir,

Please refer to your application dated 03.09.2014, which was received by Northern Division, Ministry of External Affairs on 10.09.2014, regarding visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister to Nepal and supply of sandalwood to Govt. of Nepal.

As far as Northern Division, Nepal section is concerned point wise reply of your RTI application is as under:

1. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi visited Pashupatinath Temple, Kathmandu on 4th August, 2014. Further information, if required may be sought from the Prime Minister Office. Shri Syed Ekram Rizwi, Central Public Information Officer, Deputy Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi – 110011, Telephone: 011-23074072(O), Fax No: 011-23388157, E-mail id for CPIO, PMO: rti-pmo.applications[at]gov[dot]in.
2. As per the information available with this Division 2500 kgs of sandalwood was gifted by Government of India to Pashupatinath Area Development Trust. Details of receipts, tenders payments etc may be obtained from Embassy of India, Kathmandu. The contact details of concerned person are as follows Sh. Abhay Kumar, Principal Information Officer, Phone no. 00977-1-4413174, email: cpic@eoiktm.org.
3. Information is not available with Northern Division, MEA. Information may be sought from the supplier whose details may be available in the bills/ receipts to be sent to the applicant by Embassy of India, Kathmandu.
4. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, visited Pashupatinath Temple, Kathmandu and gifted 2500 kgs of sandalwood on behalf of Govt. of India to the Pashupatinath Area Development Trust from the budget of the Ministry of External Affairs.
5. Govt of India gifted 2500 kgs of sandalwood to Pashupatinath Area Development Trust from Ministry of External Affairs budget. Govt of India has agreed to assist the restoration of the Pashupatinath temple complex, through the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) over a period of several years. The actual cost of this restoration is yet to be finalised.

6. Information regarding previous instances of gifting of sandalwood by Government of India to Pashupatinath Area Development Trust may be obtained from Embassy of India, Kathmandu. The contact details of concerned person are as follows Sh. Abhay Kumar, Principal Information Officer, Phone no. 00977-1-4413174, email: cpic@eoiktm.org. Remaining information may be sought from Prime Minister's Office. (Shri Syed Ekram Rizwi, Central Public Information Officer, Deputy Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi – 110011, Telephone: 011-23074072(O), Fax No: 011-23388157, E-mail id for CPIO, PMO: [rti-pmo.applications\[at\]gov\[dot\]in](mailto:rti-pmo.applications[at]gov[dot]in))

7. This information is not available with Northern Division. Information may be sought from L&T Division, Ministry of External Affairs, DR. V.D. SHARMA, Legal and Treaties Division, (Telephone No. 49015269 (O) Fax 49016643 Email: dirlegal1mea.gov.in.)

8. Necessary clearance for gifting of 2500 kgs of sandalwood from Govt of India to Pashupatinath Area Development Trust was obtained from Ministry of Commerce. Copy of the clearance is attached herewith.

9. Information is not available with Northern Division. You may contact Shri Syed Ekram Rizwi, Central Public Information Officer, Deputy Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi – 110011, Telephone: 011-23074072(O), Fax No: 011-23388157, E-mail id for CPIO, PMO: [rti-pmo.applications\[at\]gov\[dot\]in](mailto:rti-pmo.applications[at]gov[dot]in)

2. In case you intend to prefer an appeal, the same may be referred to the appellate authority Shri Arun Kumar Sahu, JS North II, Ministry of External Affairs, South Block, New Delhi – 110011. Fax: 23016660, E-Mail: dirnorth@mea.gov.in within thirty days of receipt of this letter.

With regards,



(Surendra Kumar)

Under Secretary (Nepal) & Central Public Information Officer (CPIO)

Tel No: 011-23014027, Fax no.: 23015694

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

1. RTI Cell, MEA, Room no. 2021, A Wing, Jawahar Lal Nehru Bhawan, 23-D, Janpath, New Delhi w.r.t MOEAF/R/2014/00168 dated 10.09.2014.
2. Sh. Abhay Kumar, Principal Information Officer, Embassy of India, Kathmandu- kindly respond with regard to point no. 2, 3 & 6 to the RTI applicant directly under intimation to the RTI cell and Northern division. (RTI application of the applicant is enclosed).
3. DR. V.D. SHARMA, Legal and Treaties Division, Telephone No. 49015269 (O) Fax 49016643 Email: dirlegal1mea.gov.in. with regard to point no. 7 of the RTI application (Copy enclosed)
4. Shri Syed Ekram Rizwi, Central Public Information Officer, Deputy Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi – 110011, Telephone: 011-23074072(O), Fax No: 011-23388157, E-mail id for CPIO, PMO: [rti-pmo.applications\[at\]gov\[dot\]in](mailto:rti-pmo.applications[at]gov[dot]in). With regard to point no. 1, 6 and 9 of the RTI application (Copy enclosed)

No. 3 /21/2011 FT - (SA)
Government of India
Department of Commerce
FT (SA) Division

Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.
Dated 8th March, 2013

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Provision of export of 2500 kg. of Sandalwood to Pashupati Area Development Trust, Kathmandu, Nepal.

The undersigned is directed to refer to M/o External Affairs U.O no. E.II231/27/2011 dated 02.11.2011 alongwith your U.O no. E.II231/27/2011 dated 06.08.2012 regarding grant of permission for export of 2500 kg of Sandalwood to Nepal for use in Pashupatinath Temple by Sandalwood Products Factory, Thekkuppattu, Vellore District, Tamil Nadu - 635801.

2. In this regard, reference is invited to DGFT's letter No. 01/91/171/17/AM'06/Export Cell/2340 dated 07.03.2013 granting permission to export of 2500 kg of Sandalwood to Pashupati Area Development Trust, Kathmandu, Nepal, as a special case. As mentioned in the permission letter, Export may be made by Government of Tamil Nadu or any other agency nominated by Government of Tamil Nadu.

3. Ministry of External Affairs is requested to suitably apprise Govt. of Nepal about the above and initiate follow up action so that the requisite sandalwood could be received by Pashupati Area Development Trust, Kathmandu, Nepal.


(P. Dasgupta)

Under Secretary to Govt of India
Tel: 011-23061974
E-mail: p.dasgupta@nic.in

Shri Tshering W. Sherpa
Deputy Secretary(Nepal)
M/o External Affairs
South Block, New Delhi
Fax: 23015694 / 23016177

Copy to:

Shri Daya Shankar
Dy. DGFT
Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi
E-mail: dayashankar@nic.in

5695-14-4SEP14

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UNDER RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT

To,

Mr. Syed Ekram Rizvi,

CPIO

Prime Minister's Office,

South Block,

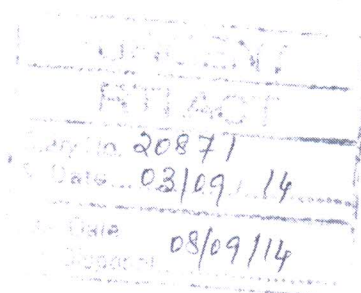
New Delhi 110001

Respected Sir,

Please provide detailed information together with correspondence/file-notings/documents on under-mentioned aspects relating to recent visit of hon'ble Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi's visit to Nepal:

According to the reports in the national and international media, in his recent trip hon'ble PM paid a visit to the Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu, Nepal. According to the right to information act, I would like to ask the following questions.

1. Was hon'ble PM's visit to the Pashupatinath temple, Kathmandu a public visit or the private one?
2. The media reported that hon'ble PM. offered 2501 kgs of sandalwood, 2500 Kgs of Ghee and Rs 25 crore as a donation to the restoration of the temple. If this is true, what was the total money spent to buy the sandalwood and ghee? Please provide receipts, tenders, procurement orders, file-notings for the same to this petitioner.
3. How many trees were felled for the procurement of 2501 kgs of sandalwood?
4. According to the prevalent market rates as reported in the media, the 2501 kg of sandalwood costs over Rs. 4 crore and 2500 kg of ghee cost around Rs. 9.36.000 but as per the information given to the Election Commission during 2014 Lok Sabha elections by the hon'ble PM's, value of his total assets is Rs. 1.5 crore. Media reported that the visit and donation to the temple was hon'ble PM's private and no media-person or official accompanied him to the temple. Where did the money for all this come from?
5. In case, the government and tax-payers are bearing the cost of 2501 Kgs sandalwood, 2500 kgs ghee and Rs 25 crore as donations, kindly provide detailed information about the fund through which all of this was financed.
6. Are there any precedents and lists available of both visits and donations by all the Prime Ministers of India since independence to the religious places in India and abroad? If yes, kindly share a copy with the petitioner.
7. Is there any rule/law which regulates the gifts/donations which can be made by the PM to foreign religious, educational and cultural places/institutions? If yes, kindly share a copy with the petitioner.
8. According to the Schedule 2 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulations) Act, 1992, export of "Sandalwood in any form, but excluding finished handicraft products of sandalwood, machine finished sandalwood products, sandalwood oil are



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prohibited". In reference to what is stated here above, please provide information on rules and manner in which the said sandalwood was sent out of India for Nepal for enabling hon'ble PM to offer it to holy Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu, Nepal.

⑨ According to media reports Haile PM Jiten, wears designer dresses, was the dress ruffian dress, robe and overcoat head suggested / designed
In case queries relate to some other public-authority, transfer petition to CPIO there under section 6(3) of RTI-Act. Fees of rupees Ten is paid as by cash as per DoPT-circular No. / by a designer?
F.10/9/2008-IR dated 05.12.2008 to obtain the information.

Thank you.

Ankit Agrawal
03/09/2014
Yours sincerely,

Ankit Agrawal,

Address: C/o. Mr. Sushil Suhag,

Flat No. 204 'B',

House No. 367/B1,

Near Pal Dairy, *Monirka*

New Delhi. Pin: 110067

Contact No: +91 95603 61801