

May 10, 2016

Press Statement

The Trustees of Sabrang Trust are relieved to note from news reports in the media that certain files pertaining to the Trust which had gone missing from the FCRA department have been recovered.

Sabrang Trust hopes that these are the files which have all the detailed responses and documents it had given to the MHA to support its claims that there were no FCRA violations and that the 'Order' of the FCRA department dated September 9, 2015 to suspend the FCRA registration had been arrived at in an arbitrary manner without application of mind.

The Trustees are intrigued about these files being in the possession of Under Secretary Mr. Anand Joshi when the inspection of the Trust was conducted by a team led by Deputy Secretary Mahendra Kumar. Mr. Joshi was not part of 4-member Inspection Team which had visited the Trust's office in Mumbai for inspection.

We further state that other than one official communication from the FCRA department signed by Shri Anand Joshi, Under Secretary, and the Trust's response to it, as detailed below, at no point was there any other communication of any kind from him to the Trust/its Trustees.

Details of the official communications from the department and the Trust's response:

- A four-member FCRA Inspection Team headed by Shri Mahendra Kumar, Deputy Secretary (MHA/GOI) inspected the accounts and related records of Sabrang Trust from April 9-11, 2015 in Mumbai. Under Secretary Shri Anand Joshi was NOT part of the Inspection team. Extending full cooperation to the Inspection team, the Trust's functionaries produced all original documents and submitted photocopies of documents as required by the Inspection Team. Printouts of Books of Accounts of the FCRA account of the Trust were also submitted. Receipts for the same were duly acknowledged by the Inspection team.
- Sabrang Trust received an official communication, post-inspection, from the FCRA department. The letter/notice signed by Under Secretary, Mr. Anand Joshi and dated June 4, 2015, made certain 'Observations' concerning several alleged violations of FCRA, 2010 and FCR Rules, 2011.



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- Through a detailed letter (along with attached documents) dated June 25, 2015, the Trust responded to each allegation, point-by-point, para-by-para, pointing out how, contrary to what was claimed in the 'Observations', the Trust had not violated any provision of the FCR Act and Rules.
- Subsequently, Sabrang Trust received an 'Order' dated September 9, 2015, signed by the Deputy Secretary (who had headed the Inspection Team in April 2015), suspending the FCRA registration of Sabrang Trust for 180 days.
- In response, through a detailed letter dated October 5, 2015, addressed to the Deputy Secretary, the Trust challenged the 'Order', point-by-point, para-by-para, pointing out that the 'Order' showed a non-application of mind and once again denied having committed any FCRA violation. The Trust requested that it be given an opportunity for its functionaries to present its case in person before the FCRA authorities.
- Sabrang Trust received a letter dated March 30, 2016 signed by Shri D.P. Tripathy, Director (FCRA, Monitoring Unit), asking the Trust's Chief Functionary to appear before him on April 16 to present the Trust's case.
- Accordingly, along with a lawyer, Javed Anand appeared before the Director (MU) to further support the Trust's contention that it had not violated any provision of FCR Act and Rules.
- Sabrang Trust awaits further communication from the FCRA department.
- Sabrang Trust has nothing to hide and has been committed to extending full cooperation in any lawful and transparent enquiry.



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