

KARNATAKA LOKAYUKTA

No. Lok/ARE-10/14-A/Enq-226/2013

Multi-storeyed Building, Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru, dt.29.05.2015.

RECOMMENDATION

Sub: Departmental Enquiry against Shri Y.N.
Ravishankar s/o Shri Y.S. Nagaraj, Second
Division Surveyor, Survey Branch, Taluk
Office, Chikmagalur District – reg.

- Ref: 1. Government Order No. ಕಂಇ 74 ಭೂದಾಸೇ (3) 2013 dated 03.05.2013.
 - 2. Nomination Order No. LOK/INQ/14-A/226/2013 dated 17.05.2013 and modified nomination order dt. 14.03.2014.

By order dt. 03.05.2013, the Government initiated the disciplinary proceedings against Shri Y.N.Ravishankar s/o Shri Y.S. Nagaraj, Second Division Surveyor, Survey Branch, Taluk Office, Chikmagalur District (herein after referred to as the Delinquent Government Official, for short 'DGO') and

entrusted the disciplinary inquiry to this Institution. This Institution, by nomination order dated 17.05.2013 and modified nomination order dt. 14.03.2014 nominated the Additional Registrar of Enquiries-10, Karnataka Lokayukta, Bengaluru, as the Inquiry Officer to conduct the departmental inquiry against the DGO for the alleged misconduct alleged to have been committed by him.

- 2. The Inquiry Officer, after completing the departmental inquiry has submitted a report dt. 26.05.2015 inter-alia holding that the charge of misconduct alleged against the DGO has been proved by the Disciplinary Authority.
- 3. The charge alleged against the DGO was that, while he was working as the Second Division Surveyor, Survey Branch, Taluk Office, Chikmagalur District, one Shri B.B. Lokeshgowda s/o Shri Basavegowda, r/o Bilagola in Kadavanthi village of Chikmagalur Taluk and District (in short, referred to as 'the complainant'), had applied for survey and pakka podi work for

his lands bearing Sy.No. 197/2, 198 and 203 measuring 9 guntas, 10 guntas and 2 acre 4 guntas respectively, however, the DGO demanded ₹ 10,000/- to prepare survey sketch. Though the complainant pleaded his inability to pay the said amount, DGO collected ₹ 500/- from him. Thereafter, on 24.03.2011, DGO contacted from his mobile No.9481254890 to the complainant's mobile No. 9449806597 and DGO reiterated the demand of ₹10,000/-, and informed the complainant that, otherwise he would not prepare the survey sketch and send it to the Tahsildar's office. On 28.03.2011, DGO again demanded ₹ 10,000/- and accepted the tainted amount on 29.03.2011. Thereby, the DGO he failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty and acted in a manner unbecoming a Government servant. The act of the DGO is misconduct within the meaning of Rule 3(1)(i) to (iii) of Karnataka Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 1966.

4. The Disciplinary Authority, in order to prove the charge, has examined 3 witnesses. PW1 is the complainant who has

supported the charge of misconduct and it is corroborated by independent shadow witness, PW2. PW3 is the Investigating Officer. He has also supported the case of Disciplinary Authority. Whereas, the DGO got himself examined as DW1, however he had not adduced any worthy evidence to disbelieve the version of the Disciplinary Authority.

- 5. The Inquiry Officer, having regard to the evidence adduced before him, has held that the charge of misconduct alleged against the DGO is proved by the Disciplinary Authority. Even on reconsideration of the entire evidence, I find no justifiable reason to disagree with the findings of the Inquiry Officer.
 - 6. The charge alleged against the DGO is one of demanding and accepting the bribe. It is serious in nature and there is no reason to award penalty less than the order of dismissal.

Y.N.Ravishankar s/o Shri Y.S. Nagaraj, Second Division Surveyor, Survey Branch, Taluk Office, Chikmagalur District, be punished with 'dismissal from service' in exercise of powers under Rule 8(viii) of the Karnataka Civil Service (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules.

7. Action taken in the matter is to be intimated to this Authority. Connected records are enclosed here with.

(Justice Subhash B. Adi)

Upalokayukta,

State of Karnataka.

KARNATAKA LOKAYUKTA

No.Lok/ARE-10/Enq-226/2013

M.S.Building, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Road, Bangalore-560 001 Date: 26/5/2015

NOTE

Sub: Departmental Enquiry against Sri. Y. N. Ravi Shankar s/o Sri. Y. S. Nagaraj, Second Division Surveyor, Survey Branch, Chikmagalur Taluk office, Chikmagalur-reg.,

Ref: 1 Govt. Order No. RD 74 BhuDaSe (3) 2013
dt. 3.5.2013
2. Nomination Order by Hon'ble Upalokayukta-II, dt. 17.5.2013

With reference to the subject and reference cited above, original enquiry report in sealed cover and connected original records as below, are forwarded for kind perusal and needful.

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Receipt of the above report and original records may kindly be acknowledged.

Additional Registrar Enquiries/10 Karnataka Lokayukta, Bangayore

Submitted to:

The Hon'ble Upalokayukta-II, Karnataka Lokayukta,

Bangalore.

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KARNATAKA LOKAYUKTA

No.LOK/ARE-10/14-A/ENQ-226/2013

M.S.Building, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Road Bangalore-560 001 Date: /05/2015

ENQUIRY REPORT

Present: Sri. A. M. Bennur

Additional Registrar of Enquiries-10

Karnataka Lokayukta

Bagalore

Sub: Departmental Enquiry against Sri. Y. N. Ravi Shankar s/o Sri. Y. S. Nagaraj, Second Division Surveyor, Survey Branch, Chikmagalur Taluk office, Chikmagalur-reg.,

Ref: 1. Report u/s 12(3) of the K.L Act, 1984 in compt/Uplok/Mys/2376/2012/DRE 1 dt. 22.2.2013

- 2. Govt. Order No. RD 74 BhuDaSe (3) 2013 dt. 3.5.2013
- 3. Nomination Order by Hon'ble Upalokayukta-II, dt. 17.5.2013
- 4. Nomination Order by Hon'ble Upalokayukta, dt. 14.3.2014

1. One Sri. Lokeshgowda S/o Sri. Basavegowda R/o Bilagola, Kadavanthi village, Chikmagalur taluk filed a complaint alleging that 3 months prior to 29.3.2011, he had filed an application in Tahsildar office at Chikmagalur to get survey and pakka phodi of his 9 guntas and 10 guntas as well as 2 acres 4 guntas of land in Sy. No. 197/2, 198 and 203 respectively. So, before 15 days prior to 29.3.2011, DGO who was then the second division surveyor in Survey section of taluk

of the survey sketch. In that regard, he approached the respondent/DGO to give the survey sketch. DGO demanded bribe of Rs. 10,000/-. Though complainant expressed his inability to pay that much of amount, DGO insisted for the payment of the said bribe, otherwise he will not issue survey sketch. DGO received Rs. 500/- as part payment on 24.3.2011. Complainant contacted DGO through his mobile. On that day also, DGO repeated the demand of bribe of Rs. 10,000/-. Again on 28.3.2011, complainant enquired the DGO and requested him to issue the sketch. DGO did not heed to his request and demand. On the other hand, repeated his demand of bribe. As the complainant has no mind to pay the bribe, he approached the Chikmagalur Lokayukta police and filed his complaint on 29.3.2011.

- 2. On the basis of the said complaint, a case was registered at Cr. No. 5/11 by Chikmagalur Lokayukta police against the DGO for the offences punishable u/s 7, 13(1)(d) R/W 13(2) of P.C. Act and FIR was submitted to the Court. Thereafter the IO held pre trap formalities and prepared the entrustment mahazar. Thereafter held the trap in presence of complainant, shadow witness, another panch, on the same day, which was successful. DGO was found demanding and accepting the bribe to do the official favour. Bribe amount was seized from the possession of the DGO, IO attended the post trap formalities, took the custody of the DGO, seized the articles. Then recorded the statement of the witnesses. Thereafter, submitted the final report.
- 3. On the basis of the report of the IO, ADGP, Karnataka Lokayukta, filed a report for initiating action against the DGO. On the basis of the said report, compt/Uplok/Mys/2376/12 was registered against the DGO. Observation note was sent to DGO. DGO filed his reply denying the

said allegations. However, the same has not been found convincing to drop the proceedings. Then a report u/s 12(3) of the Karnataka Lokayukta Act was sent to the Government against the DGO on 22.2.2013 as per reference No. 1. In pursuance of the report, Government was pleased to issue the GO on 3.5.2013 authorizing Hon'ble Upalokayukta to hold enquiry as per reference No. 2. On the basis of the GO, nomination was issued by the Hon'ble Upalokayukta on 17.5.2013 as per reference No.3 authorizing ARE 4 to hold enquiry and report. In view of the transfer of the files, another nomination was issued as per reference No. 4 authorizing ARE -10 to hold enquiry and report.

4. On the basis of the nomination issued, ARE 4 framed the article of charge against the DGO as contemplated under Rule 11(3) of KCS (CCA) Rules 1957 and sent it to the DGO.

Annexure I and II

- 5. In view of the service of the AOC, DGO appeared before the enquiry officer, then first oral statement of the DGO was recorded under Rule 11(9) of KCS (CCA) Rules on 27.6.2013. DGO pleaded not guilty and claim to be enquired. Thereafter DGO filed his written statement.
- 6. In order to prove the charge against the DGO on behalf of disciplinary authority, three witnesses are examined as PW 1 to 3 and Ex. P1 to P8 are marked. After the close of the case of the disciplinary authority, second oral statement of the DGO was recorded under Rule 11(16) of KCS(CCA) Rules. DGO submitted that he will file his written defence and he will examine himself. Accordingly, DGO examined himself as DW1 and got marked Ex D1

- on his behalf. Since the DGO examined himself in support of his defence recoding answer to the questionnaire under Rule 11(18) of KCS (CCA) Rules were dispensed with.
- 7. Then the Learned Presenting Officer and Learned advocate for DGO filed their respective written brief and they were also heard orally.
- 8. In view of the above said facts, the points now that arises for my consideration are as under:
 - i. Whether the Disciplinary Authority proved the charge against DGO.
 - ii. To what order.
- 9. In view of the reasons given by me in the forgoing paragraphs, my findings on point No. 1 is in affirmative. Point no. 2 as per final order.

REASONS

- 10. PW1 is the complainant, PW2 is the panch cum shadow witness and PW3 is the investigating officer. Ex P 1 is the complaint filed by he complainant PW1 on 29.3.2011, Ex P 2 is the pre trap entrustment mahazar, Ex P 3 is the trap mahazar which were drawn on 29.3.2011, Ex P 4 is the mahazar drawn at the house of the DGO from where the records pertaining to the complainant are seized, Ex P 5 is the attendance register, Ex P 6 is the mahazar drawn on 30.3.2011 at the time of seizure of the photographs, Ex P 7 are the documents which are in 52 sheets pertaining to the claim of the complainant, Ex P 8 is the statement of the DGO. Of course DGO examined himself as DW1 and Ex D1 is the dairy extract maintained by him for the month of March 2011 at his office.
- 11. According to PW1, he filed an application before the Tahsildar office, Chikmagalur seeking for survey of his landsbearing No. 197/2,

- 198, 203 respectively situated at Kadavanthi village and sought for pakka phodi. The said survey was allotted to DGO who was the then second division surveyor in the survey section of Chikmagalur taluk office. After coming to know of the same, he approached the DGO to get the survey sketch. Though DGO conducted the survey, failed to issue the sketch with ulterior intention best known to him. When DGO came to the land of the complainant for survey, he collected charges of Rs. 500/-. Further, it is stated by PW1 that his repeated requests made to DGO 15 days prior to 29.3.2011 for issue of survey sketch went in vain. On the other hand, DGO was always insisting him to pay bribe of Rs. 10,000/- to give him survey sketch.
- 12. Further PW1 says he expressed his inability to pay that much of bribe amount, but DGO did not heed to his request. Then on 24.3.2011, he contacted the DGO through his mobile to the mobile of the DGO and requested for survey sketch. On that day also, he repeated the demand of bribe. Even on 28.3.2011, his request to DGO to give survey sketch went in vain. On the other hand, DGO repeated the demand of bribe.
- 13. Further PW1 says as he has no mind to pay the bribe, he approached the Lokayukta police, Chikmagalur and filed his complaint on 29.3.2011 and produced the bait amount of Rs. 10,000/- demanded by the DGO. Further PW1 says IO secured two panch witnesses to the Police Station. IO introduced panchas to him, he narrated before the panchas about the demand of bribe put forth by the DGO to issue the survey sketch. Then panchas noted down the currency note numbers. IO got applied phenolphthalein powder on the said notes. One panch Sri. Mohammad Ghouse counted the said notes and kept them in his shirt pocket.

- 14. Further PW1 says IO took the hand wash of the panch Sri. Mohammad Ghouse and it turned into pink. Further PW1 says IO instructed another panch Sri. Thippeswamy (PW2) to accompany him as a shadow witness and also IO gave him instructions to give signal by wiping his face in case if DGO demands and accepts the bribe. In that regard, entrustment mahazar (pre trap) Ex P2 was drawn at the Police Station.
- 15. Further PW1 says himself, panch PW2, IO, staff and another panch proceeded to meet the DGO wherein his office is situated in PWD building near Government Hospital, Chikmagalur. DGO was present. Himself and PW2 met him. Further PW1 says he asked DGO about the sketch. For that DGO asked him whether he brought the money, he said yes, then DGO demanded the money. He gave it to him. DGO counted the said notes and then kept them in his pant pocket. Thereafter PW1 came out of the office of the DGO, gave signal to the IO.
- 16. Further PW1 says within 5-10 minuties, IO PW3 came along with another panch Sri. Mohammad Ghouse and staff. IO asked him about the bait amount and he told before the IO that on demand made by the DGO, he has given it to DGO and DGO after receipt of the same, counted them, then kept them in his pant pocket.
- 17. Further PW1 says IO introduced himself to the DGO, then caught hold of the hands of the DGO. When IO took the handwash of the DGO, it turned into pink. Then IO instructed panch PW2 to take out the bait amount from the pant pocket of the DGO. Panchas compared the currency note numbers. They tallied with the numbers noted in the Police Station. Then after making alternative arrangement seized the pant of the DGO. When pant pocket was dipped into solution, it also

- turned into pink. In that regard, trap mahazar Ex P3 was drawn at the spot.
- 18. Further PW1 says the IO took the photographs of the pre trap and post trap proceedings. Then questioned the DGO about the records. DGO took police and panchas—and the complainant to his house and produced the documents. In that regard, mahazar Ex P 4 was drawn. He identifies the attendance register Ex P5 and another mahazar Ex P6 under which photographs were seized.
- 19. The evidence of this PW1 finds full corroboration with the contents of Ex P1 to P6 on all the material facts. The evidence appears to be very much natural, cogent and consistent. When I go through the cross examination offered to this PW1, nothing is extracted in the cross examination of this PW1 so as to discard his sworn testimony as it is there is no personal ill will or grudge between this PW1 and the DGO so as to brush aside the evidence of this PW1. Under such circumstances, I have no other go but to believe the say of this PW1 in toto.
- 20. PW2 is the panch cum shadow witness. According to him, on 29.3.2011, Lokayukta police Chikmagalur called him to the Police Station to assist them in the investigation. Another panch Sri. Mohammad Ghouse accompanied him. When they went to the Police Station, they saw the complainant in the Police Station. IO introduced the complainant to them. Complainant narrated before them about the demand of bribe put forth by DGO to issue the survey sketch. Then produced the amount of Rs. 10,000/- demanded by the DGO as bribe. They noted down the currency note numbers. Then IO applied phenolphthalein powder on the said notes.
- 21. Pancha Sri. Mohammed Ghouse counted them and kept them in the shirt pocket of the complainant. Further PW2 says when IO took the

handwash of the Sri. Mohammed Ghouse, it turned into pink. PW2 further says IO instructed him to accompany the complainant PW1 as a shadow witness and also gave direction to the complainant, in case if DGO demands and accepts the bribe, he has to give signal by wiping his face and in that regard, Ex P2 pre trap mahazar was drawn at the Police Station.

22. Further PW2 says the complainant, himself, another panch, IO and staff proceeded to the office of the DGO situated near the Government hospital Chikmagalur. Further he says himself and the complainant met the DGO at his office and complainant asked the DGO to give survey sketch. For that DGO put forth demand of bribe. Complainant paid Rs. 10,000/- to the DGO as demanded. DGO received it, counted them and kept them in his pant pocket. Then complainant came out of the chambers of the DGO office, gave signal to IO. Within 2-3 minutes, IO came along with another panch and asked the complainant where is the bait amount. Complainant told before the IO that he has given it to DGO on his demand. Then IO introduced himself to the DGO, with the help of staff, he caught hold of the hands of the DGO. When IO took the hand wash of the DGO, it turned into pink. Then at the instructions of IO, he took out the bait amount from pant pocket of the DGO. When himself and the panch Sri. Mohammed Ghouse compared the currency note numbers of the bait amount, they tallied with the numbers noted in the Police Station. Then IO after making alternative arrangements, seized the pant of the DGO. When the pant pocket was dipped into solution, it also turned into pink. In that regard, IO prepared the trap mahazar at the spot as per Ex P3. Further PW 2 says next day IO called him to Police Station and seized the photographs under a mahazar Ex P6. Further PW2 says

- when questioned, the DGO gave his statement before the IO. DGO took the IO to his house and produced the records. In that regard, mahazar Ex P4 was drawn. He identifies the records as Ex P7.
- 23. The evidence of this PW2 finds corroboration from the contents of the mahazars referred to above as well as the oral evidence of PW1. I have gone through the cross examination offered to this PW2, but I find nothing is extracted in his cross examination so as to discard his sworn testimony. As it is there is no personal ill will or grudge between this PW2 and the DGO. A strange suggestion is made to this PW2 that he in order to oblige the Lokayukta police, giving a false evidence. Other than that, as stated above, nothing is elicited in the cross examination of this PW2 so as to brush aside his evidence. Under such circumstances, I have no other go but to believe the say of this PW2.
- 24. PW3 is the investigating officer. According to him, on 29.3.2011, complainant appeared before him and gave his complaint as per Ex P1 alleging that DGO the surveyor demanding the bribe to issue him survey sketch. On the basis of the said complaint, he registered the case against the DGO at Cr.No. 5/11 and submitted FIR to the court. Then he secured two panch witnesses PW2 and one Sri. Mohammad Ghouse. Then he introduced panchas to the complainant, PW1 narrated before panchas about the demand of bribe made by the DGO. Then produced Rs. 10,000/- bribe amount demanded by the DGO. Panchas noted down the currency note numbers, then he got applied phenolpthalien powder on the said notes. Panch Sri. Mohammed Ghouse counted the said notes and kept them in the shirt pocket of the complainant. He took the hand wash of Sri. Mohammad Ghouse, it turned into pink.
- 25. Further PW3 says he instructed PW2 to accompany the complainant as a shadow witness and also instructed the complainant

in case if DGO demands and accepts the bribe, he has to give signal by wiping his face. In that regard, he prepared the entrustment mahazar Ex P2 at the Police Station.

- 26. Further PW3 says he along with the complainant and panchas proceeded to the office of the DGO situated near Government hospital Chikmagalur. He stopped the vehicle at a little distance from the office of the DGO. Complainant, PW2 got down from his vehicle and proceeded to meet the DGO. Within 10 minutes, he got signal from the complainant. Then he along with another panch and staff proceeded to the chambers of the DGO.
- 27. Further PW3 says he asked the complainant about the bait amount. Complainant told before him that in the presence of PW2, on demand made by the DGO, he given it to DGO and DGO after counting them, kept them in his pant pocket. Then he introduced himself to the DGO. With the help of his staff, he caught hold of the hands of the DGO. When he took the hand wash of the DGO, it turned into pink.
- 28. Further PW3 says he directed PW2 to take out the bait amount from the pant pocket of the DGO. PW2 took out the amount and produced, panchas counter checked the currency note numbers. They tallied with the numbers noted under Ex P2 at the Police Station. Then he seized the said bait amount. After making alternative arrangement, he seized the pant of the DGO. When the pant pocket was dipped into solution, it also turned into pink. He seized the pant also. Then he questioned the DGO about the recording pertaining to the claim of the complainant. Then prepared the trap mahazar at the spot, Then DGO took him to his house and produced the records. In that regard, he has drawn the mahazar Ex P4. He seized the photographs pertaining to the pre trap and post trap formalities under a mahazar Ex P6. He identifies

the statement of the DGO Ex P8 and the records Ex P7. Then he took the custody of the DGO, seized articles were subjected to chemical examination. Then he recorded the statement of the panchas and other witnesses and after completion of the investigation submitted the charge sheet against the DGO.

- 29. The evidence of this PW3 find corroboration from the contents of the documents referred to above as well as the oral testimony of PW1 and 2, the independent witnesses. On going through the cross examination of this PW3 again I find nothing is extracted in his cross examination so as to discard his sworn testimony. Except making a suggestion that though there was no prima facie case against the DGO, he filed a charge sheet for statistical purpose, that suggestion is denied.
- 30. In my considered view, it is the quality of evidence that is more important than that of the quantity against this natural, cogent and consistent evidence led on behalf of the Disciplinary Authority which has remained unimpeachable.
- DGO took a strange defence by examining himself that he has never gone to the land of the complainant and surveyed it. According to him, it is one Sri. Kalleshappa who surveyed the said lands. In another breadth he admits that complainant repeatedly met him at least 4-5 times earlier to 28.3.2011 and 29.3.2011.
- 32. Further he admits that on 29.3.2011 complainant who met him put Rs. 10,000/- in his pant pocket and went away. So one thing is made clear that this DGO admits the presence of the complainant on that day, at that spot and payment of Rs. 10,000/-. That bribe amount was seized from the possession of the DGO. In the cross examination, DGO admits that complainant enquired him about the sketch 2-3 times prior to 29.3.2011 and so also contacted him over his

mobile and he admits the mobile number of both himself and that of complainant Under the circumstances, I find the defence set out by the DGO appears to be defence for defence sake, just an eye wash may be to save his skin out of sin. It is admitted by the DGO that after the trap nearly after one month one Sri. Kalleshappa surveyed the land that means to say on the date of trap, the work of the complainant was pending with the DGO.

- 33. On the close scrutiny of the evidence of this DW1, he has not disputed the fact of allotment of the said survey work to him. DGO wants to rely on Ex D1, the so called dairy maintained by him to show that he has not attended the survey work of the complainant. On the perusal of the said diary for the month of March, it is written by the DGO may be to suit his convenience. It is not got attested by his superior officers about its authenticity. Under such circumstances, bare say of the DGO that he has not surveyed the land of the complainant rather cannot be blamed.
- 34. In view of the discussions made by me in the above said para, I find there is consistency in the evidence of PW1 to 3 on all the material facts. In my view, There is nothing to discard their sworn testimony which finds support from the contents of the undisputed documents. No where DGO disputed the seizure of the records from his possession from his house under a mahazar, and records Ex P7 in 52 sheets. If he is not the person allotted with the survey of the land of the complainant, how those records pertaining to the survey were found in his house is not explained by the DGO. He has not disputed the photographs. He has not disputed the presence of the complainant on 29.3.2011 at his office and complainant having paid Rs. 10,000/-.

- 35. So taking into consideration of all these admitted facts, I find the Disciplinary Authority is successful in establishing the charge. As against this unimpeachable evidence led by the Disciplinary Authority, defence set out by the DGO appears to be little unnatural and unbelievable.
- 36. Hence, for these reasons I find, Disciplinary Authority is successful in proving the charge against the DGO. Accordingly, I answer point No. 1 in affirmative and proceed to pass the following order.

ORDER

Disciplinary Authority has proved the charges as framed against DGO Sri. Y. N. Ravi Shankar s/o Sri. Y. S. Nagaraj, Second Division Surveyor, Survey Branch, Chikmagalur Taluk office, Chikmagalur.

Hence, this report is submitted to Hon'ble Upalokayukta –II for kind consideration.

Dated this the

(A.M. Bennur) Additional Registrar Enquiries-10, Karnataka Lokayukta, Bangalore.