M.A. SIDDIQUE, I.A.S.,
Commissioner of Archives and
Historical Research

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES AND
HISTORICAL RESEARCH
No. 51, GANDHI-IRWIN ROAD,
EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600 008.

D.O.Lr.N o.4191/S9/14, dated 12th August 2014

Dear Thiru S.Nagarajan,

As you are aware, subsequent to the re-survey under the updating registry scheme (i.e. the UDR) in the 1980s, pre-UDR records, held earlier by Taluk offices, were transferred to the district collectorates. The district collectorates therefore have one set of pre-UDR 'A' Register as well as FMBs for reference for disposing of UDR appeal cases. In some cases, taluk offices also have these records.

The Tamil Nadu Archives also maintains one copy of FMBs (and not 'A' Register) of these pre-UDR re-surveys. The Archives has been receiving a large number of RTI applications seeking copies of FMB sketches of pre-UDR re-surveys. You will appreciate that Tamil Nadu Archives is intended to preserve these FMB sketches for posterity and for eternity. As such, these records should be accessed only as the very last resort. On the other hand, the copies of FMB sketches available in the district collectorates are meant for regular use. In the interest of preserving these invaluable documents in Archives, it is only appropriate that RTI applications seeking copies of FMB sketches are disposed off in the Collectorate. I have therefore directed that the Tamil Nadu Archives shall refer all such applications to the PIOs of district collectorates concerned under section-6(3)(i) and (ii) of the RTI Act.

I request you to kindly advise the PIOs of your collectorate to dispose all the RTI applications seeking copies of pre-UDR FMBs at the collectorate level itself. In case, for reasons such as damage, wear and tear,

D.O.L. Reg
No. 1028

Ph 044-28191202, 28190191, Fax 044-28194338 PBX No. 28190355, 28190855
E-mail tnarchives_rh@tn.nic.in

Verified RedEstate

loss of FMB sketches etc. the FMBs not available in the collectorate, the PIOs of the collectorate may transfer the applications under Section 6(3)(i) to the Tamil Nadu Archives mentioning specific reasons for non traceability of the sketches sought. When such reference is made, the Tamil Nadu Archives will furnish the copies under the RTI Act. I wish to add a word of caution here that such references should be made by the PIO only after sincere attempt has been made to retrieve the records from the record room.

It has also come to my notice that in some instances, PIOs routinely reply to RTI applicants that FMB sketch sought are not available with the Collectorate. This is done without even making an attempt to search for the record in Collectorate record room. This results in RTI applicants approaching the Government Archives for the records. I request you to therefore advise the PIOs to not to send such reply to RTI applicant and instead refer such application to Government Archives after confirming that the record is not available in the Collectorate. However, if such references are routinely received by Government of Archives, we will have to view it seriously and will be constrainted to send a team from Archives to check if the record is indeed not available in Collectorate and whether sincere attempt was made by the record room in-charge or not.

Looking forward to your cooperation,

Thanking you, with warm regards

Yours sincerely,

(M.A.SIDDIQUE)

To
Thiru S.Nagarajan, I.A.S.,
District Collector,
Nagarcoil-629001

Verified RedEstate

. SIDDIQUE, I.A.S.,
Commissioner of Archives and
Historical Research

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES AND
HISTORICAL RESEARCH
No. 51, GANDHI-IRWIN ROAD,
EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600 008.

D.O.Lr.N o.4190/S9/14, dated 12th August 2014

031368

Dear Tmt Vasuki,

Department of Archives is in receipt of large number of R.T.I applications being forwarded by the C.S.O office requesting copies of FMB sketches relating to UDR and pre-UDR re-surveys.

You will kindly appreciate that Tamil Nadu Archives is mandated to preserve documents for posterity and for eternity. Every time a FMB is accessed for an application received under RTI act, some amount of damage is done to these FMBs that are more than 70 year old. As such, FMB copies of Archives should be accessed only as a very last resort.

You are aware that one copy of pre UDR FMBs are available in District Collectorates concerned. These copies are intended for regular day-to-day use and for reference for UDR appeals etc. As such, it is appropriate that copies of FMBs should be provided by district Collectorate rather than Tamil Nadu Archives.

I therefore request you to kindly advise the PIO concerned in the CSO office to transfer these applications to PIOs of the district collectorate concerned under Section-6 (3) (i) of the RTI Act rather than transferring them to Archives as is being done now. In case, the collectorates do not have copies of the requested FMB sketches, for reasons such as damage, loss due to wear and tear etc., the PIO of the district Collectorate concerned could forward the application to the department of Archives mentioning the reasons for not being able to retrieve the FMB sketches requested. I am

Verified by RealEstate

writing a separate letter to the District Collectors requesting them to advise their PIOs in this matter and refer RTI applications to Tamil Nadu Archives only after making a genuine attempt to retrieve the requested FMB sketches from their record rooms.

I have spoken to AD Maps, CSO as well as the J.D, CSO in this regard and they have assured me their complete cooperation. I will be grateful for your advice to CSO on this issue.

Thanking you, with regards.

Yours sincerely,

(M.A.SIDDIQUE)

To
Tmt R.Vasuki, I.A.S.,
The Director of Survey & Settlements,
Chepauk, Chennai-600005

Verified RedEstate