

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Chandra Administrative Judge, Hathras

Ms. Seema Singh, Judicial Magistrate, Hathras has applied for issuance of 'No Objection Certificate' for obtaining a Passport, vide her application dated 29.7.2010 (Flag-1).

It is submitted that previously 'No Objection Certificates' (Flag -2) were being issued on behalf of the Hon'ble Court in favour of the Judicial Officers for obtaining Passport but for the last 3 or 4 years, practice of issuance of 'Identity Certificates' (Flag -3) have been initiated and following this practice in some matter, 'Identity Certificates' have been issued by the undersigned also.

It is further submitted that two files were submitted to His Lordship Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajes Kumar, Administrative Judge, Jaunpur/Varanasi for approval to issue the 'Identity Certificate'. In these files, His Lordship was pleased to direct the office to provide complete Rules and Procedure in this regard. It was also directed by His Lordship to report as to whether there is any other G.O. apart from G.O. dated 14-06-1999 and to report as to whether the case of the Officer is covered under the G.O.?

In aforesaid files, office had submitted a report that apart from the aforesaid G.O., there is no other G.O. with regard to issuance of 'No Objection Certificate' which implies that G.O. has not been modified by the State Government.

Under the process of compliance of His Lordship's direction, I have had an opportunity to go through the provisions the Passports Act / Rules and provisions of the aforesaid G.O. I have also perused some previous files and a perusal of the same, revealed that under the provisions of G.O. dated 14-06-1999, (Flag -4) "No Objection Certificates" were being issued according to the old Proforma (Flagged - 5) issued by the Passport Office, but subsequently on the basis of

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application moved by the Judicial Officer, stating that the Passport Office has issued a new Proforma (Flagged -6), according to which 'Identity Certificate' is required to be submitted with application form in place of 'No Objection Certificate', Identity Certificates were issued. Thereafter, practice of issuing 'Identity Certificate' has been initiated for the last 3 or 4 years.

It is further submitted that G.O. dated 14-06-1999 provides for issuance of 'No Objection Certificate' only, after taking into consideration, four conditions enumerated under Para 5 of the aforesaid G.O.

Rule 5 of the Passport, 1980 provides that an application for issuance of Passport shall be made in Appropriate Form set out there for in Part-I of Schedule-III. It reveals from perusal of Point No.13 of the Proforma of Application Form No. 1 under Form-I of Schedule-III that the Central Government Servants/ State Government Servants/ PHQ/ Statutory Body are required to attach 'Identity Certificates' (as per Annexure 'B' of Passport Information booklet).

In view of the above, the question, which emerges for consideration, is as to whether 'No Objection Certificate' as per provisions of G.O. dated 14-06-1999 or the 'Identity Certificate' as per Passport Rules may be issued by the Hon'ble Court in favour of the Judicial Officer for obtaining Passport.

While issuing 'Identity Certificate', it is being certified by the Hon'ble Court that provisions of Section 6 (2) of the Passports Act, 1967 (Flag-7) are not attracted in the case of the applicant and recommendation for issuance of the Passport is also made.

The question, as to whether the provisions of Section 6 (2) of the Passports Act, 1967 are attracted or not, relates to an enquiry and to

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section 5 (2) of the Passports Act. New proforma seeking recommendation does not appear to be in consonance of the provisions of the Passport Act, as it is for the Passport Authorities to enquire and examine the case of the applicant / Judicial Officer for issuing of the Passport, as per conditions enumerated under Section 6 (2) of the Passports Act, 1967.

In my opinion, the aforesaid Passport Rules and Proforma/ booklet issued under these Rules, specify the guidelines to be followed by the applicants, while making application for issuance of Passport. Point No. 13, to Form of Application at page 36 of the Passport Rules, refers to 'Identity Certificate'. Section III of the Passport Information Booklet, provides columnwise guidelines for filling up the application form. In reference to column No.13 at page 42 of the Passport Rules, it is provided that Identity Certificate from the **concerned office** should be attached as per annexure-B. Proforma annexure-B, under which Passport Authorities are seeking 'Identify Certificate', also does not specify as to by whom, it should be issued. Therefore it does not appear to have been provided under the Passport Act/Rules, Proforma/Booklet that the 'Identity Certificate' should be issued by the Head of the Department/Hon'ble High Court.

'No Objection Certificate' or the 'Identity Certificate' may be issued by the Hon'ble Court in view of the guidelines / G.O. issued under the orders of the Central Government or the State Government. As per record available in the office of the court, the Central Government or the State Government have not issued any G.O./Guidelines to the effect that 'Identity Certificate' should be issued by the Head of the Department. The only guidelines, issued under the aforesaid G.O. dated 14.6.1999

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clearly specify that 'No Objection Certificate' may be issued by the Head of the Department, if case of the applicant appears to be covered under the conditions enumerated in para 5 of the aforesaid G.O.

Therefore, in view of the G.O. dated 14-06-1999, the Hon'ble Court, in its discretion, may issue 'No Objection Certificate' in favour of the Judicial Officers, if the case of the Judicial Officer is covered under the G.O.

In view of the above, following proposals are made:-

'No Objection Certificate' (Flag-2) be issued in favour of Ms. Seema Singh, Judicial Magistrate, Hathras.

OR

Any other order / direction which may be deemed proper.

Submitted for kind perusal and order.

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Registrar (Budget)

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