

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 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Dear Thiru S. Nagarajan,

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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,

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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 constrained 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*  
(M.A. SIDDIQUE)

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



