

# Shortage of court fee stamps in city

Inadequate supply from Security Press, Hyderabad, led to shortage: Pardeshi

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**T**HE apparent shortage of court fee stamps in the city has put Right to Information (RTI) activists in a quandary. Shrikar Pardeshi, Inspector General, Stamp Duty and Registration, said the inadequate supply of stamps from the Security Press, Hyderabad has led to the shortage.

RTI activist Qaneez Sukhrani said for the past three-four months, court fee stamps of denominations Rs 10 and Rs 20 have



SHRIKAR PARDESHI

almost vanished from the market. "Stamp vendors at Shivajinagar

court and other vendors in the city say that they do not have the stamps," she said.

The court fee stamps are used by RTI applicants to furnish their fees when they submit pleas with the state government offices.

"Although Indian Postal Orders (IPO) are allowed for transaction fee, many offices do not entertain it. While dealing with the PMC, I have seen many Public Information Officers (PIOs) rejecting applications which are accompanied by IPOs," she said.

Apart from using them for RTI application, court fee stamps

are also used for document registrations in courts and other similar dealings. Complaining about the shortage, many lawyers said that stamp vendors are charging double for court fee stamps.

Pardeshi said the shortage was due to unavailability of special paper with the Security Press on which the court fee stamps are printed. "Their tender process has been delayed and we are following up with them," he said. However, Sukhrani termed the delay as another tactics by the government to keep information seekers at bay.