

(2004) 11 AP CK 0015

In the Andhra Pradesh High Court

Case No : Writ Petition No. 18383 of 2004

Mohd. Nasrullah Khan

APPELLANT

Vs

Regional Passport Officer

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 04-11-2004

Acts Referred:

Passports Act, 1967 — Section 10

Citation : (2005) 1 ALD 419

Hon'ble Judges : V.V.S. Rao, J

Bench : Single Bench

Advocate : Mohd. Moin Ahmed Quadri, for the Appellant; A. Rajashekar Reddy, SC for CG, for the Respondent

Judgement

V.V.S. Rao, J.—This writ petition is filed seeking a direction to respondent to correct date of birth of petitioner in his passport bearing No.95538, corresponding to new Passport No. E 3113063 issued on 21.8.2002, as 1.4.1976 as shown in his SSC Certificate, instead of 14.8.1968.

2. It is the case of the petitioner that he was born on 1.4.1976. In 1992, he applied for passport and in the application for passport he inadvertently mentioned the date of birth as 27.3.1979. Accordingly passport bearing No.95538 was issued on 9.1.1993 showing his date of birth as 27.3.1979. The same was renewed on 21.8.2002 vide Passport No. E 3113063. He approached the respondent on 10.9.2004 with a request to change the date of birth in the passport. The respondent refused to correct the date of birth of petitioner. Hence, the present writ petition.

3. Heard the learned Counsel for the petitioner and the learned Standing Counsel for the Central Government.

4. In Ali Imran Vs. Regional Passport Officer, , I have considered the Circular dated 18-4-2001 issued by the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs pursuant to the judgment of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay in

Civil Writ Petition No. 1072 of 2000. The instructions/ clarifications issued in the said Circular read as under:

(a) Where an applicant is seeking rectification/correction of a mistake in the entry on date of birth/place of birth in the passport, PIA (Passport issuing authority) may after verifying/satisfying himself, affect the correction treating the same as a technical correction. There is no need for a declaratory order in such cases.

(b) Where a competent authority issuing a birth certificate or an educational board registering a date of birth along with place of birth as valid were to issue any correction or amendment, PIA may effect the necessary amendment in the passport without insisting on a Court Order. As per the provisions of Section 21 of the General Clauses Act, 1997, a competent authority issuing a certificate could also make necessary amendments to the same.

(c) Where the initial entry has been made on the basis of a supportive document issued by one competent authority i.e., school/educational authority and the applicant subsequently requests for a change on the basis of a certificate issued by another competent authority i.e., Municipal Authorities resulting in conflicting sources of valid proof, the PIA should direct the applicant to obtain a civil order from a competent Court of jurisdiction, certifying the valid date of birth/place of birth.

5. In view of the above clarifications, I disposed of the said case observing as under:

Be it noted that under the provisions of the Passports Act, 1967, no power is vested in the Regional Passport Officer to correct entries in the passport. However, pursuant to the judgment of the High Court of Bombay referred to hereinabove, it is now permissible for the Regional Passport Officer to accept applications for rectification/ correction. Nonetheless, as per Clause (c) above, if an entry had been made on the basis of a supportive document issued by one authority i.e., school or educational authority and subsequently the applicant requests for a change of the entry on the basis of the certificate issued by another authority the passport issuing authority is required to direct the applicant to obtain a proper declaration from the Civil Court.

6. In this case, the petitioner has produced Secondary School Certificate to prove that his correct date of birth is 1.4.1976. Therefore, the claim of the petitioner is well supported and squarely falls in Clause (a) of the Circular dated 18.4.2001.

7. Following the judgment of this Court in Ali Imran (supra), this writ petition is also disposed of directing the respondent to consider the application of the petitioner along with the Secondary School Certificate No. PC/01/0190544/2 PRIVATE, issued by the Secretary, Board of Secondary Education, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, and to pass appropriate orders in the light of the observations made in the above judgment. There shall be no order as to costs.