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Info chief orders probe into varying 26/11 call logs

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Ashutosh Shukla

The state information commission (SIC) has directed the additional chief secretary, home, to conduct an inquiry into discrepancies in call records of the Mumbai police during the fateful night.



Vinita Kamte may finally get the answers she has been looking for since husband Ashok's death on November 26, 2008.

The state information commission (SIC) has directed the additional chief secretary, home,



chief, Vijay Salaskar, encounter specialist, were shot dead behind the Cama and Alibless Hospital when they tried to confront the terrorists.

In the months after the attacks, Kamte began enquiring about the circumstances which led to her husband's death based on reports that the lack of coordination among the police had allegedly led to the three officers' deaths. There was a delay of over 40 minutes in taking the three to hospital.

Although Kamte succeeded in acquiring phone call records of the police control room from the night of the attacks, she was given two sets of the same call logs with several discrepancies.

On April 18, state information chief Ratnakar Gaikwad took up her complaint of certain call logs being tampered with and ordered that the inquiry be completed by May 20.

"The information sought by the complainant (Kamte) is sensitive and important. The complainant's husband was martyred on the night of 26/11 terror strikes and if there is any discrepancy in the information provided to her, it is an extremely serious matter," stated Gaikwad's order.

The SIC clarified that the RTI Act has provisions to allow it to order an inquiry and action against officers who give misleading or incorrect information. Kamte began looking for answers in 2009 through an RTI application.

However, the police refused to give the information she sought. She then approached the SIC, after which she received two sets of details of call records. But she found that some call logs differed completely in both the sets.

In 2011, she filed a complaint on this before the Pune bench of the SIC, which transferred it to the Mumbai bench. She approached the Mumbai bench in February last year, asking it look into the issue.

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