Examination Answer Scripts:

A student approached the University for copies of his marks sheets, answer keys and guidelines given to evaluators for 4 subjects in which he had written examinations. The University turned down the requests quoting University regulations. The Commission issued a direction to the University that this stand was contradictory to the judgment in the Aditya Bandopadhyay case in which it had been ruled that a student would be entitled to get his own answer script subject to prescribed period of retention. It was also pointed out that even if there was a bar in the rules or regulations of the University, Section 22 of the RTI Act would have over-riding effect. As University reiterated its stand, an enquiry was taken up. The PIO drew attention to the minutes of a Syndicate meeting that answer scripts would be stored only for two semesters, except those subject to court proceedings. Since two semesters had not been completed, the Commission found no justification to deny the answer scripts. It was represented on behalf of the University that there were more than 10 lakh answer scripts and it would be difficult to trace the particular answer scripts. The Commission directed that efforts should be taken to trace out the answer scripts and if they were still not traceable an affidavit should be filed by the Controller of Examinations on the steps taken to locate the papers. The answer keys and guidelines, if any issued to the evaluators, were also directed to be furnished to the petitioner. The University was asked to pay a compensation of Rs 10,000 to the petitioner. The Registrar was directed to take steps to see that answer scripts are kept stored in an organized manner so that they are easily retrievable. (SA 2601/2016)