



**OFFICE OF THE
ASSAM INFORMATION COMMISSION
JONAKKEE COMPLEX, PANJABARI, GUWAHATI-781 037**

Case No. : SIC/UDR.8/2015
Complainant : Sri Pulak Das
Respondent : The SPIO, O/o the Executive Engineer, Tangla Division,
Irrigation, Tangla
Date of hearing : 21.04.2016
Complaint heard by : Smt. Nilufer Alam Hazarika, IAS (Retd.)
State Information Commissioner, Assam

O R D E R
21.04.2016

The RTI petitioner Sri Pulak Das is present.

The Public Authority is represented by Syed Nur Rahman, SPIO/Executive Engineer, Tangla Division, Irrigation, Tangla. He has submitted a written statement dated 08.04.2016 stating that the information containing 19 pages had been furnished to the petitioner through special messenger vide letter dated 03.09.2014 but the same was not received by him. Hence, the same was sent to the petitioner containing 19 pages of reply by Registered post on 03.03.2015 but the petitioner still denied to have received any information. Copy of the said letters has been enclosed with the written statement. The Petitioner present however refused to have received the said documents. The Commission, therefore, directed the Public Authority to provide the photocopies of the said information/documents. Accordingly, the Public Authority furnished copies of the same to the petitioner. The petitioner stated during the hearing that he was not aware whether he had received all the information sought for and would contact the SPIO after going through the documents received by him today.

The Public Authority stated verbally that the documents sought for by the petitioner would involve a huge expenditure of around Rs. 83,000/-. In the written statement submitted he referred to the letter addressed to the Addl. Chief Engineer for sanction of fund for supplying photocopies of the documents sought for by the petitioner. In the process, the Addl. Chief Engineer, Irrigation also requested the Department for sanction of the same on 23.03.2015. The SPIO has also mentioned in the written statement that the Under Secretary (Budget) to the Govt. of Assam, Irrigation Department informed that there is no budget provision available against supplying of information/documents under RTI Act, 2005. He requested to pursue the petitioner to peruse the information as admissible under the said Act vide letter dated 21.05.2015 which was received by the office on 21.11.2015, intimation was conveyed to the petitioner.

The Commission observes that the information sought for by the petitioner vide his RTI application dated 26.05.2014 involves a huge volume of information relating to several years i.e. 2004-05 to 2013-14. Furnishing of complete information will involve substantial loss in making photocopies and this will be a huge burden on the resources of the concerned Public Authority.

The Commission, therefore, directs the petitioner to inspect the relevant office records and documents in the office of the Executive Engineer, Tangla Division, Irrigation within 15 days from the date of receipt of this order and complete the inspection of documents during office hours within 2 working days. The Executive Engineer, Tangla Division, Irrigation is also directed to allow the petitioner to inspect the relevant records/documents as above and allow him

to take notes and photocopies of the sought for documents, free of cost, up to 50 copies and thereafter, on payment of Rs. 2/- for every additional pages of photocopying.

In view of the above, the Complaint petition dated 02.02.2015, praying for furnishing all the information, is disposed of.

Sd/-
Nilufer Alam Hazarika, IAS (Retd.)
State Information Commissioner, Assam
Panjabari, Guwahati

Authenticated true copy.

Sd/-
Deputy Registrar
Assam Information Commission

Memo No. SIC/UDR.8/2015/ -A

Dtd. 21.04.2016

Copy to:

1. The SPIO, Office of the Executive Engineer, Tangla Division, Irrigation Department, Tangla, Dist-Udalguri (BTAD), Assam, Pin-784521 for information and necessary action.
2. The First Appellate Authority/ Tangla Division, Irrigation Department, Tangla, Dist-Udalguri (BTAD), Assam, Pin-784521 for information.
3. Sri Pulak Das, Vill-Mazbat Namati (Kha), Dist- Udalguri (BTAD), Assam, Pin- 784507 for information.
4. Computer Section for uploading in the Website.
5. Office File.

Deputy Registrar
Assam Information Commission