

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

Case No. : SIC/GLT.9/2015
Appellant : Sri Bijoy Kutum.

Respondent : The SPIO, O/o the District Agriculture Officer, Golaghat

Date of hearing : 08.08.2016

Second Appeal heard by : Shri Pinuel Basumatary,

State Information Commissioner, Assam

ORDER 08.08.2016

The SPIO absent. However, a Written Statement dated 04.07.2016 and 03.08.2016 received from the SPIO.

The Appellant present.

Perused the Written Statements. It has been submitted that the information had been provided to the Appellant through a letter dated 30.12.2013 along with 127 photocopies of the information in response to the RTI Application dated 21.11.2013. Being aggrieved with the furnishing of incomplete information, the Appellant filed his First Appeal dated 18.02.2014 and then, the Second Appeal dated 26.05.2014 with the Commission.

Heard the Appellant. He submitted that he had indeed received some information. However, in respect of certain documents required by him he had received a demand dated 24.03.2014 for payment of Rs.1000/- towards cost of photocopying of the documents to be supplied to him. However, he refused to pay the said amount on the ground that he had not received the information within 30 days as stipulated by the RTI Act, 2005.

From perusal of the case record it is seen that the said request for payment of Rs.1,000/- as cost of photocopying was summary in nature and did not contain information relating to the number of documents to be photocopied, in other words the demand for the amount had been made without a detail estimate.

The Commission is of the view that demands for cost of photocopying can be made only if the information is provided within 30 days as stipulated by the said Act, and then within the stipulated period the demand should be justified in terms of the documents and the number thereof to be photocopied.

As the Appellant has not submitted to the Commission in writing the information/documents that remain to be provided by the SPIO, the Commission hereby orders that he shall furnish a detailed communication in this regard to the SPIO within 7 days of receipt of this order and within 10 days of receiving such communication from the Appellant, the SPIO shall provide the information/documents, free of cost.

With this, the Second Appeal Petition is disposed of.

Sd/-

Pinuel Basumatary
State Information Commissioner, Assam
Panjabari, Guwahati

Authenticated true copy.

Sd/-

Deputy Registrar Assam Information Commission Copy to:

- 1. The SPIO, office of the District Agriculture Officer, Golaghat, Dist- Golaghat, Assam, Pin-785621 for information.
- 2. The First Appellate Authority/District Agriculture Officer, Golaghat, Dist- Golaghat, Assam, Pin-785621 for information.
- 3. Sri Bijoy Kutum, President, Gana Sewa Sammittee, Bokakhat, P.O.- Bokakhat, Dist- Golaghat, Assam, Pin- 785612 for information.
- 4. Computer Section for uploading in the Website.
- 5. Office File.

Deputy Registrar Assam Information Commission