

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

Case No. : **KP(M).71/2015**

Complainant/ appellant : **Sri Haren Roy**

Respondent : **Commandant , 2nd Assam Forest Protection Force**

Date of hearing : **12-8-2016**

Complaint/ Second appeal heard by : **Shri H. S. DAS, IAS(Retd)
State Chief Information Commissioner, Assam**

O R D E R

The petitioner Sri Haren Roy is present accompanied by one Sri Aswini Konwar. The second Assam Forest Protection Force is represented by ABSI and SPIO Md. Siraj Ali accompanied by Sri Chandan Kr. Nath Constable No.. 546 of 2nd AFPF.

The second appeal petition dated 11-9-2015 is taken up for hearing in presence of both the parties.

From perusal of the case records it is seen that the petitioner filed an RTI petition dated 10-3-2015 in his capacity as General Secretary of Assam Forest Protection Force Employees' Association addressed to the SPIO of the office of the Principal CCF and HOFF, Assam. He sought informations about the number of employees from whose pay bills some amounts were deducted as ration money and unit development fund. He also wanted to know the amount deducted so far from the members of the Forest Protection Force constables and ABSI , from the month from which such deductions began till the date of his RTI application.

It is seen that the above-mentioned RTI petition was transferred by the SPIO of the office of the PCCF and HOFF, Assam to the SPIO of the office of the Commandant, 2nd AFPF, requesting him to furnish the information to the applicant directly.

This was followed by a letter dated 28-7-2015 from the SPIO of the second AFPF addressed to the petitioner Sri Haren Roy informing him that he was expelled from the Assam Forest Protection Force Employees' Association through a joint meeting convened on 22-2-2015 and, therefore he should refrain from using the pad of the association for seeking RTI information. The petitioner was further advised that if he applies for the required information in his individual capacity the same will be furnished to him within the stipulated time as per procedure.

This Commission would not like to go into the internal matters of the 2nd AFPF and the All Assam Forest Protection Force employees association and whether the petitioner Sri Haren Roy has any locus standi as General Secretary of the above mentioned association to seek information on behalf of other members.

This Commission will, however, recognizes the right of the petitioner to seek information about any deductions made from his salary since inception on account of ration money and the purpose of unit development.

This Commission, therefore, directs the SPIO of 2nd AFPF to furnish the sought for information to the petitioner only in respect of himself. As regards the other employees, similar actions may be taken if they submit separate RTI applications individually or against any RTI application submitted by any authorized representative of any employee's association duly recognized by the competent authority under the relevant Conduct Rules for employees of Govt. of Assam.

In course of today's hearing the petitioners alleged large scale irregularities in making deductions from the pay bills on account of ration money and contribution for unit development fund.

This Commission also acknowledges that the place of duties of most of the Assam Forest Protection Force personnel being in remote and difficult forest areas, it may not be easy for them to follow-up, and verify the correctness of deductions made from their salary bills from the above mentioned accounts. Therefore for the sake of transparency and accountability, this Commission directs the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and HOFF to look into the matter and lay down clear guidelines for any deductions to be made from pay bills of the personnel of AFPF and put in place an effective arrangement so that all concerned employees are regularly informed of any deductions made from their pay bills by the concerned DDOs who disburses their salaries.

With the above order the second appeal petition dated 11-9-2015 is disposed of.

**Sd/-
(H. S. Das)**

**State Chief Information Commissioner, Assam
Panjabari, Guwahati**

Authenticated true copy.

**Sd/-
Registrar
Assam Information Commission
Memo No.SIC/ KP(M)71/2015/185-A**

Dated.12-8-2016

Copy to:

1. ABSI and SPIO Md. Siraj Ali, Commandant 2nd Assam Forest Protection Force, Basistha for information.
2. Sri Haren Roy, General Secretary, AADPF Employees Association, Basistha, Guwahati- 29 for information.
3. Computer Section for uploading in the Website.
4. Office File.
5. Order Book.

**Registrar
Assam Information Commission**