

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

Case No. : SIC/KMJ.81/2016

Appellant : Shri Mridul Suklabaidya.

Respondent : The SPIO, O/o the Secretary,

Suprakandi Gaon Panchayat, Karimganj.

Date of hearing : 28.10.2016

Second Appeal heard by : Shri Pinuel Basumatary,

State Information Commissioner, Assam

ORDER 28.10.2016

The SPIO/Secretary, Suprakandi Gaon Panchayat, Karimganj absent. He has submitted a Written Statement dated 26.10.2016. A Written Statement dated 27.10.2016 is also received from the Block Development Officer, South Karimganj Development Block which is taken on record.

The Appellant present.

Heard the Appellant. He has submitted that he has not received the information he had sought for.

Perused the Written Statement of the Secretary of the Gaon Panchayat. He has submitted that on his request the Appellant had attended his office, but refused to receive the photocopies of the documents containing the information sought for by him. He has apologized for his absence for hearing today on account of his medical condition. He has also submitted a set of documents related to the information sought for.

Perused the Written Statement of the Block Development Officer, South Karimganj Development Block. He has submitted that on receipt of the First Appeal he had transferred the same to the said GP Secretary with the direction to supply the information/documents, free of cost, to the Appellant.

The case records indicate that the RTI Application was dated 28.10.2015. It is thus evidence that the said GP Secretary failed to provide the information within the stipulated time of 30 days of receipt of the RTI Application. His Written Statement indicates that he had taken action on the RTI Application only after receiving the hearing notice from the Commission dated 22.09.2016.

As regard the FAA/BDO, South Karimganj Development Block, he did not dispose of the First Appeal in accordance with the RTI Act, 2005. Instead of disposing of the First Appeal by taking hearing and issuing a speaking order, the FAA/BDO merely "transferred" it to the G.P Secretary.

As the G.P Secretary has submitted a set of documents in connection with the information to the Commission instead of sending the same to the Appellant, the Commission had decided to hand over the same to the Appellant in the course of this hearing in order to facilitate access to the information by the Appellant to avoid further delay. The Appellant has duly received the documents.

The Appellant submitted that he be allowed to make a representation in case he finds information/documents so received by him incomplete or deficient.

In view of the above, the Commission, hereby orders that the Appellant shall verify the documents he has received today and shall, if not satisfied, write to the G.P Secretary seeking the wanting information/documents within 7 (seven) days of receipt of this order and upon receipt of such communication, the G.P. Secretary shall provide the wanting information to the Appellant within 10 days by Registered Post.

Further the Commission directs the Block Development Officer, South Karimganj Development Block and G.P Secretary, Suprakandi Gaon Panchayat to be prompt and diligent in dealing with the RTI cases in accordance with the Right to Information Act in future.

Sd/-

Pinuel Basumatary State Information Commissioner, Assam Panjabari, Guwahati

Authenticated true copy.

Sd/-

Deputy Registrar Assam Information Commission

Memo No. SIC/KMJ.81/2016/38 -A

Dtd. 28.10.2016

Copy to:

- 1. The SPIO, office of the Secretary, Suprakandi Gaon Panchayat, District-Karimganj, Assam, Pin-788 711 for information and necessary action.
- 2. The First Appellate Authority/Block Development Officer, South Karimganj Development Block, District-Karimganj, Assam, Pin 788 710 for information.
- 3. Shri Mridul Suklabaidya, S/o Shri Monorom Suklabaidya, R/o Vill.- Pinnagar, P.O. Girishganj Bazar, G.P. Supprakandi, P.S.-Nilambazar, District Karimganj, Assam, Pin- 788 711 for information.
- 4. Computer Section for uploading in the Website.
 - 5. Office File.

Deputy Registrar

Assam Information Commission