

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

Case No. : KP(M).229/2016
Complainant/ Appellant : Shri Utpal Das
Respondent : Environment & Forests Department, Govt. of Assam
Date of hearing : 3.10.2016
Complaint/ Second : Shri H. S. Das, IAS (Rtd)
Appeal heard by : Chief Information Commissioner, Assam

O R D E R

3.10.2016

The petitioner Shri Utpal Das is present. The public authority is represented by Shri Manabendra Medhi, ACS, Joint Secretary & SPIO of Environment & Forests Department, Govt. of Assam accompanied by Shri Prabodh Haloi, Sr. AA of the Department. The second appeal petition dated 16.12.15 is taken up for hearing in presence of both the parties.

The petitioner filed an RTI petition dated 22.1.15 before the SPIO of Forests Department, Govt. of Assam seeking several informations about the number of elephants killed by trains of NF Railway in Assam when crossing the railway track during the last 15 years. The petitioner stated that he received the other informations except against point No. 4 and 6 of his RTI petition. By point No. 4 he wanted information about the names of forests officials in the department from top to bottom. These informations in any case are required to be proactively and suo motu disclosed by the concerned public authority u/s 4 of the RTI Act, 2005. This Commission, therefore, directs the SPIO to give the above information to the petitioner within 15 days from the date of receipt of this order free of cost, if not already available up-to-date in the departmental website.

By point No. 6 the appellant wanted information about number of security personnel deployed for protection of wildlife in Assam and arms, weapons and ammunitions used by them. This Commission is of the view that disclosure of informations regarding camp-wise deployment of forests security personnel and types of arms, weapons and ammunitions may not be in the best interest of protection of the forests and wildlife. This Commission, therefore, directs the Environment & Forests Department to inform the petitioner only about total number of security engaged by Forests Department for protection of forests and wildlife.

With the above order, the second appeal petition dated 16.12.15 is disposed of.

Sd/-
(H. S. Das)
Chief Information Commissioner, Assam
Panjabari, Guwahati

Authenticated true copy.

Sd/-
Registrar
Assam Information Commission

- Copy to:
1. The Joint secretary & SPIO of the office of the WPT&BC Department, Govt. of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for information and necessary action.
 2. Shri Utpal Das, President, Forum of Conscious Citizen, House No. 57, Chatribari, Old Fire Brigade Lane, Guwahati-8 for information.
 3. Computer Section for uploading in the Website.
 4. Office File.
 5. Order Book.

Registrar
Assam Information Commission