

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

Case No.	: SIC/NLB.77/2016
Appellant	: Md. Rubul Ali
Respondent	: The SPIO, O/o the Block Elementary Education Officer, Barkhetri, Mukalmua, Dist- Nalbari, Assam
Date of hearing	: 10.03.2017
Second Appeal heard by	: Shri Pinuel Basumatary, State Information Commissioner, Assam

<u>O R D E R</u> 10.03.2017

Shri Dilip Kumar Bhattacharya, Block Elementary Education Officer, Barkhetri, Mukalmua is present. He has submitted a Written Statement dated 09.03.2017.

The Head Teachers of six Schools who are notified of today's hearing have submitted either W/Ss or copies of the communications made to the Appellant in response to his RTI Application dated 12.08.2016.

A W/S dated 28.02.2017 has been received from the First Appellate Authority/Deputy Inspector of Schools, Nalbari.

The Appellant, Md. Rubul Ali is present. He submitted that he had not received the information he had sought for and that could not deposit the cost of photocopying for the reason that the demand for the fund was not accompanied with detailed estimates, and the mode of payment not specified.

Perused the W/S of the BEEO. It has been submitted that the RTI Application was received on 18.08.2016 and transferred to the Head Teachers of the concerned L.P. Schools through a letter dated 19.08.2016. It has also been added that the Appellant's letter dated 30.08.2016 regarding the estimates of cost of photocopying etc. and mode of payment was replied to the very next day by advising him to follow up with the concerned Head Teachers.

Perused the case record. It is seen that the Appellant had sought various information such as attendance registrar, students attendance registrar, fund received from Government, accounts of the school, and vouchers in respect of MDM, all for the period from 2010 - 2017 (sic). It is evident that records related to the information sought for was voluminous and therefore photocopying would involve deployment of significant amount of resources. Infact, the amount of cost of photocopying sought for by the Schools added upto Rs.23,700/- (Rupees twenty three thousand seven hundred). It is seen that the Head Teachers of the schools had made communication with the Appellant regarding the cost of photocopying either on 22.08.2016 or the next day which amounted to prompt action after receipt of the transferred RTI Application. However, the Head Teachers have erred in not giving the detailed estimate of the cost of photocopying.

In view of the facts and in consideration of the volume of documents/records, the Commission hereby orders that the BEEO shall fix the dates in which the Appellant shall inspect the records schoolwise after ascertaining the convenience of the Appellant and the Head Teachers. The Appellant shall inspect the records, take notes etc. and indicate the specific documents or pages of records whose photocopies he would require. The Public Authority shall make available certified photocopies of documents upto 50 copies and the cost of photocopying beyond that number shall be borne by the Appellant. The entire exercise shall be completed within 30 days of receiving this order.

With this, the Second Appeal is hereby disposed of.

Sd/-Pinuel Basumatary State Information Commissioner, Assam Panjabari, Guwahati Memo No. SIC/NLB.77/2016/34-A

Dtd. 10.03.2017

Copy to:

1. The SPIO, O/o the Block Elementary Education Officer, Barkhetri, Mukalmua, Dist- Nalbari, Assam, Pin- 781 126 for information and necessary action.

2. The SPIO, C/o the Block Elementary Education Officer, the Head Teachers (i) Rampur LPS, (ii) 1173 No. Hidilattary LPS, (iii) Rowmari LPS, (iv) Damdama LPS, (v) Amrattar LPS, (vi) Joy Ram Boro LPS, (vii) 550 No. Damdama LPS, Barkhetri, Mukalmua, Dist- Nalbari, Assam, Pin- 781 126 for information and necessary action.

3. The First Appellate Authority/Deputy Inspector of Schools, Nalbari, Dist- Nalbari, Assam for information.

4. Md. Rubul Ali, C/o- Sumsuddin Ali, Vill & PO- Lasama, PS- Mukalmua, Dist- Nalbari, Assam, Pin- 781 312 for information.

5. Computer Section for uploading in the Website.

6. Office File.

Registrar

Assam Information Commission