

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

Case No. : CCR.154/2017
Complainant : Shri Uttam Goala
Respondent : CDPO, Binnakandi ICDS Project, Dist. Cachar
Date of hearing : 15.11.2017
Complaint/ Second : Smti. N.A. Hazarika, IAS (Retd)
Appeal heard by : State Information Commissioner, Assam

O R D E R

15.11.2017

The complainant Shri Uttam Goala has sent a mail dated 14.11.17 seeking for exemption of complainant from appearance in the hearing fixed on 15.11.17 on the ground that he was financially weak to reach the Commission's office by bearing expenses. He stated that the public authority did not furnish any information nor communicated on the same till date as per direction given by the Commission vide notice dated 20.10.17. He also alleged that the public authority misappropriated the entire Government fund which will be revealed after inquiry by this competent forum and hence attract punishment u/s 20 of the RTI Act, 2005 as well as under provision of Indian Penal Code and also be punished for contempt of Commission for violation of the notice.

The CDPO, Binnakandi ICDS Project, Cachar vide letter dated 7.11.17 has informed the Commission that vide email dated 26.9.17 and 16.1.17 the Commission was informed of action taken by them and has enclosed copies of letter dated 26.9.17 and dated 16.1.17.

On perusal of the case records it is seen that the CDPO, Binnakandi ICDS Project vide letter dated 21.10.17 had directed all Circle Supervisors of Binnakandi ICDS Project to furnish the information sought for to the petitioner Shri Uttam Goala and also to intimate the actual expenditure required for Xerox copies of the information sought for within 15 days for furnishing the information to the petitioner. A copy of the said letter was also marked to the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, Programme Officer, Divisional ICDS Programme, Cachar, Silchar and the petitioner.

On perusal of letter dated 16.1.17 referred to above, it appears that the petitioner Shri Uttam Goala was informed that to furnish the documents of all Anganwadi Centres under Binnakandi ICDS Project, he was required to deposit Rs. 3,51,312 only to Smti. U. Benu Devi, LDA cum Typist of their office for Xerox charges of the documents sought for at the rate of Rs. 2.00 per single page of 75908 pages and at the rate of Rs. 4.00 per double page of 49874 pages for submission of reports as per provision of the RTI Act, 2005. Vide letter dated 26.9.17 the CDPO had informed the Commission that the information seeker has not deposited the cost of Xerox copies or communicated with them till date.

The Commission observes that the information sought for by the petitioner vide his RTI petition dated 20.9.16 involves a huge volume of information relating to several categories of information for several years. Furnishing of complete information requires substantial cost in making photocopies which has been assessed at Rs. 3,51,312.00 by the public authority. This will definitely lead to a huge burden on the resources of the concerned public authority.

The Commission therefore, directs the petitioner to inspect the relevant office records and documents in the office of the CDPO, ICDS Project, Binnakandi within 21 days from the date of receipt of this order and complete inspection of documents during office hours.

The CDPO, ICDS Project, Binnakandi is also directed to allow the petitioner to inspect the relevant records and documents and allow him to take notes and photocopies free of cost upto 25 copies and thereafter on payment of actual cost of photocopies.

With the above direction the complaint petition dated 24.8.17 is disposed of.

Sd/-

(N.A. Hazarika)
State Information Commissioner, Assam
Panjabari, Guwahati

Authenticated true copy.

Sd/-

Joint Registrar
Assam Information Commission

Memo No. SIC/ CCR.154/2017/

Dtd. 15.11.2017

- Copy to:
1. The Child Development Project Officer, Binnakandi ICDS Project, Dist. Cachar, Assam for information and necessary action.
 2. The SPIO of the office of the Child Development Project Officer, Binnakandi ICDS Project, Cachar, Assam for information and necessary action.
 - 3..Shri Uttam Goala, Vill & PO- Binnakandi T.E., Lakhipur, dist. Cachar, Assam for information.
 4. Computer Section for uploading in the Website.
 5. Office File.
 6. Order Book.

Joint Registrar
Assam Information Commission