



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

Case No. : SIC/NGN.128/2017  
Appellant : Shri Durgeswar Das  
Respondent : The SPIO, O/o the Block Dev. Officer, Udali Dev. Block, PO-Lanka, Hojai, Assam  
Date of hearing : 19.02.2018  
Second Appeal heard by : Shri Pinuel Basumatary,  
State Information Commissioner, Assam

**O R D E R**  
19.02.2018

The Appellant, Shri Durgeswar Das is present.

The SPIO is absent. However, the Block Dev. Officer, Udali Dev. Block has submitted a Written Statement dated 17.02.2018.

Perused the Written Statement. The Written Statement does not provide the information sought for by the Commission through its hearing notice dated 16.01.2018. The Respondent has not indicated the dates on which the Application for information was received and the communication made to the Appellant respectively. It has only be mentioned that the cost of photocopying was sought for from the Appellant, the latter had not deposited the money and the information could not be provided consequently. The copy of the postal receipt pasted on the copy of the letter written to the Appellant indicates that the letter was sent by Registered Post on 05.06.2017. The amount of Rs. 3347/- (Rupees three thousand three hundred forty seven) was sought for photocopying a total of 406 pages of documents of three different sizes.

Heard the Appellant. He submitted that he had received the said request for depositing the cost for photocopying on 14.06.2017 which was after the expiry of the maximum stipulated 30 days from the date of receipt of his Application which was 04.05.2017. He had visited the office three times to apprise the BDO about non-admissibility of the said cost but the official was not available in the office. As no decision was given by any other official in the Public Authority the issue could not be settled. He added that he had not submitted any written representation to the Public Authority in this regard. According to his submission, no SPIO had been appointed in the office of the BDO.

In the absence of the Respondent in the hearing or any detailed Written Statement, the contention of the Appellant could not be verified. However, it is seen that the cost of photocopying was indeed conveyed belatedly, i.e. after expiry of the maximum period allowed by the RTI Act, 2005 for providing of the information during which the Applicant is liable to pay the cost of photocopying. However, it is seen that the documents to be furnished in connection with the information can be considered voluminous and the cost involved considerable. Considering all relevant facts, the Commission hereby orders that the BDO shall furnish the information to the Appellant as follows -

The BDO shall provide the copies of bank statements to the Appellant, free of cost and the cost of the A4 size and A3 size documents shall be borne by the Appellant. The Appellant shall deposit an estimated cost of Rs. 829 (Rupees eight hundred twenty nine) for this purpose to the office of the BDO within 7 days of receiving this order and the BDO shall provide the information/documents within 7 days of receiving the said payment.

The Second Appeal is hereby disposed of.

Sd/-

Pinuel Basumatary  
State Information Commissioner, Assam  
Panjabari, Guwahati

Authenticated true copy

Sd/-

Joint Registrar  
Assam Information Commission

Memo No. SIC/NGN.128/2017

Dtd.19.02.2018

Copy to:

1. The SPIO, O/o the Block Dev. Officer, Udali Dev. Block, PO- Lanka, Hojai, Assam for information and necessary action.
2. The First Appellate Authority/Block Dev. Officer, Udali Dev. Block, PO- Lanka, Hojai, Assam for information.
3. Shri Durgeswar Das, Residence of Christian Patty, PO- Nagaon, Dist- Nagaon, Pin- 782 001, Assam for information.
4. Computer Section for uploading in the Website.
5. Office File.

Joint Registrar  
Assam Information Commission







