



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

Case No. : KP(M).142/2018  
Complainant/ Appellant : Sri Swarup Jyoti Bordoloi  
Respondent : PIO of the Gauhati University  
Date of hearing : 28.5.2018  
Complaint/ Second : Shri H. S. Das, IAS (Rtd)  
Appeal heard by : Chief Information Commissioner, Assam

**O R D E R**

28.5.18

1. The petitioner Sri Swarup Jyoti Bordoloi is present. The public authority is represented by Dr. Prasanta Barman, PIO and Deputy Registrar of Gauhati University accompanied by Sri Angshuman Saikia (attached to the PIO of Gauhati University). The second appeal petition dated 9.1.18 read with petitioner's RTI petition dated 28.10.17 is taken up for hearing in presence of both the parties.
2. From perusal of the case records it is seen that the petitioner Sri Swarup Jyoti Bordoloi filed an RTI petition dated 28.10.17 before the PIO and Deputy Registrar of Gauhati University by making a reference to his earlier letter dated 21.10.16, in which he alleged that there was striking similarity in two Ph.D. thesis in physics submitted by two scholars, namely, Sri Gazi Ameen Ahmed and Sri Dilip Das, who submitted their thesis on 30.6.2001 and 31.12.2002 respectively. He suspected plagiarism and malpractice. By his RTI petition mentioned above, he wanted to know whether any inquiry was conducted and concluded into the allegations made by him.
3. The Deputy Registrar and PIO submitted a written statement dated 26.5.18, which is entered into the case records. It has been mentioned in the WS that the allegations made by the petitioner was discussed in the Executive Council (EC) and as per EC's resolution No. R/EC-04/2017/22(B)(v) the matter was forwarded to the legal authority seeking their opinion. The PIO enclosed with his WS a copy of his letter dated 9.12.17 furnishing the petitioner a copy of the EC's resolution mentioned above on the committee's report on plagiarism constituted on 22.09.2016 and a copy of Ph.D. award list, which shows that Sri Gazi Ameen Ahmed and Sri Dilip Das were awarded Ph. D. degree by the Gauhati University in 2002 and 2004 respectively. The petitioner submitted that he did not receive the above mentioned letter and the enclosures. The Registry of this Commission is directed to hand over a copy of the above mentioned letter dated 9.12.2017 along with copy of resolution of the EC and other enclosures to the petitioner.
4. From the WS submitted by the PIO and Deputy Registrar it appears that an inquiry was held on the allegations made by the petitioner. The report of the inquiry was discussed by the EC as mentioned above and that it was referred to the Standing Counsel of the University for his opinion. The PIO submitted orally that the report of the Standing Counsel is yet to be received.
5. In view of the above, the Deputy Registrar and PIO of Gauhati University is directed to furnish a copy of the inquiry report to the petitioner immediately, in any case

not later than 15 (fifteen) days from the date of this order which was pronounced in presence of both the parties.

6. This Commission is of the view that furnishing of the copy of the inquiry report to the petitioner should meet the requirements of point nos. 3(a) and 3(d) of the RTI petition. As regards point no. 3 (b), the PIO submitted that since the Ph.D degrees were awarded to the above mentioned two scholars in the years 2002 and 2004 respectively, the allegation of plagiarism have to be assessed from the inquiry report itself, as no software was available to detect plagiarism at that time. As regards point no. 3(c), i.e. corrective measures taken by the University authority against the alleged plagiarism, it appears from the submissions of the PIO that no final decision has been taken as yet. Since the matter has been pending for nearly two years now with the Standing Counsel, the principle of transparency, accountability and containment of corruption as mentioned in the preamble of the RTI Act, 2005 require that the EC of Gauhati University obtains opinion of the Standing Counsel without any further delay, take a final decision in the matter and communicate the same to the petitioner within 45 (forty five) days from the date of receipt of this order.

With the above order, which is passed in exercise of powers under section 19(8) (a) of the RTI Act, 2005, the second appeal petition dated 9.1.18 is disposed of.

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

Authenticated true copy.

Sd/-  
Registrar  
Assam Information Commission

Memo No. SIC/KP(M).142/2018/

Dated. 28.5.2018

Copy to:

1. The Deputy Registrar and PIO of Gauhati University, Gopinath Bardoloi Nagar, Guwahati-14 for information and necessary action.
2. Sri Swarup Jyoti Bordoloi, House No. 08, Konwachal, PO- Silpukuri, Guwahati- 781 003 for information.
3. Computer Section for uploading in the Website.
4. Office File.
5. Order Book.

Registrar  
Assam Information Commission