



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

Case No. : DMJ.07/2018
 Complainant/ Appellant : Shri Manab Ch. Dutta
 Respondent : Deputy Commissioner, Dhemaji District.
 Date of hearing : 4.10.2018
 Complaint/ Second : Shri H. S. Das, IAS (Rtd)
 Appeal heard by : Chief Information Commissioner, Assam

O R D E R

4.10.18

The petitioner Shri Manab Ch. Dutta is absent. The public authority i.e. the Deputy Commissioner, Dhemaji has sent a written statement dated 03.10.2018 by a special messenger. It has been mentioned in the WS that the petitioner Shri Manab Ch. Dutta attended the Deputy Commissioner's office and informed that he did not receive the documents from the Deputy Commissioner's office sent to him by Jarikarak as well as by registered post. Meanwhile on receipt of the notice from the Commission, the SPIO of Deputy Commissioner's office had sent the bunch of documents containing the informations sought for by the petitioner vide his RTI petition dated 24.8.2017 to this Commission. The petitioner has now agreed to collect the same from the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Dhemaji. By another letter No. DN.12/2010/59 dated 3.10.2018 the Addl. Deputy Commissioner, Dhemaji has authorized Shri Manik Dutta, Peon in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Dhemaji to collect the bundle of documents which was earlier sent to this Commission, so that the same can be handed over to the petitioner. **It is therefore, directed that the documents be returned, through the special messenger of Deputy Commissioner, Dhemaji so that the same can be handed over to the petitioner within 7 days from the date of this order.**

In this connection it is observed that the informations sought for by the petitioner were voluminous, furnishing of which requires a great deal of compilation thereby absorbing substantial resources in terms of man hours spent of the public authority. In such cases where the petitioner asks voluminous informations, the concerned public authorities may advise the information seekers to exercise their right of information by way of inspection of records, documents, taking notes, extracts, certified copies of documents, etc. as laid down u/s 2(j) of the RTI Act, 2005. In this connection, the Commission refers to the following observations of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Civil Appeal No. 6454/2011:-

"Indiscriminate and impractical demands or directions under RTI Act for disclosure of all and sundry information (unrelated to transparency and accountability in the functioning of public authorities and eradication of corruption) would be counter-productive as it will adversely affect the efficiency of the administration and result in the executive getting bogged down with the non-productive work of collecting and furnishing information. The Act should not be allowed to be misused or abused, to become a tool to obstruct the national development and integration, or to destroy the peace, tranquility and harmony among its citizens. Nor should it be converted into a tool of oppression or intimidation of honest officials striving to do their duty. The nation does not want a scenario where 75% of the staff of public authorities spends 75% of

their time in collecting and furnishing information to applicants instead of discharging their regular duties. The threat of penalties under the RTI Act and the pressure of the authorities under the RTI Act should not lead to employees of public authorities prioritizing 'information furnishing', at the cost of their normal and regular duties".

With the above order, the second appeal dated 9.10.2017 is disposed of.

Sd/-

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

Authenticated true copy.

Sd/-

Registrar i/c
Assam Information Commission

Memo No. SIC/DMJ.07/2018/

Dated. 4.10.2018

Copy to:

1. The SPIO of the office of the Deputy commissioner, Dhemaji, Assam for information and necessary action.
2. Shri Manab Ch. Dutta, Ward No. 2, Dhemaji Tiniali, PO-Dhemaji, PIN-787057 for information.
3. Computer Section for uploading in the Website.
- 4 Office File.
5. Order Book.

Registrar i/c
Assam Information Commission