

Case No. : SIC/KP(M).210/2020
Complainant/ Appellant : Shri Joydeb Das
Respondent : SPIO of the Office of the Directorate of Char Areas Development, Hengrabari, Dispur, Guwahati-06, Assam.
Date of Hearing : 25-01-2021
Complaint/ Second Appeal heard by : Shri Samudra G. Kashyap.
State Information Commissioner, Assam

O R D E R

25-01-2021

1. The appellant Shri Joydeb Das is present.
2. Dr. Manoranjan Sarma, SPIO/Project Officer, Directorate of Char Areas Development is present. He has also submitted a written statement vide letter No. CADA/RTI/Case No.120/2014/Pt/7/2646 dated 13.01.2021.
3. Going through the above-mentioned written statement submitted by the Director Char Areas Development, Assam, it is seen that the Public Authority has taken a very casual approach to RTI matter. In the written statement it has been mentioned that the RTI petition of Shri Joydeb Das dated 20.02.2020 was “misplaced”, for which the informations could not be provided on time. This explanation cannot be accepted as the RTI Act, 2005, specifically mentions about the time frame so that citizens are not deprived of timely access to information.
4. Moreover, while the written statement has stated that the required information sought for by the appellant was already furnished against another RTI petition submitted by the appellant, and the same cannot be accepted. It is not for the Public Authority to judge and decide on responding to RTI application if the same information was already provided to the same petitioner against another petition. The RTI Act does not anywhere mention that information should not be provided to a citizen if already provided earlier against another RTI petition by the same citizen. Hence, the SPIO/Director of Char Areas Development is hereby directed to furnish the information sought for by the appellant within 7 (seven) days from the receipt of this order.
5. The Public Authority is also directed to take care while drafting/writing official letters, so that names of persons, designations, dates and even the name of the own office is not spelt wrongly as has been seen in the written statement.
6. With the above order the Second Appeal is hereby disposed of.

Sd/-
(Samudra G. Kashyap)
State Information Commissioner, Assam,
Panjabari, Guwahati.

Authenticated true copy.

Sd/-
Secretary & Registrar
Assam Information Commission

Memo No. SIC/KP(M).210/2020

Dated: 25-01-2021

Copy to:

1. The SPIO, O/o the Directorate Char Areas Development, Hengrabari, Dispur, Guwahati-06, Assam for information and necessary action.
2. The First Appellate Authority/The Director, Directorate Char Areas Development, Hengrabari, Dispur, Guwahati-06, Assam for information.
3. The petitioner, Shri Joydeb Das, S/o- Late Karunamoy Das, H.NO-16, Kushal Konwar Road, Near Mayur Krishna Cinema Hall, Ambari Fatashil, Guwahati-25, for information.
4. Computer section for uploading in the website
5. Office File
6. Order Book

Secretary & Registrar
Assam Information Commission