

Case No. : SIC/KP(M) 410/2021  
Complainant/ Appellant : Joydeb Das  
Respondent : SPIO, Office of the Registrar, Gauhati University,  
Gopinath Bardoloi Nagar, Guwahati  
Date of Hearing : 07/07/2022  
Complaint/ Second : Dr. A.P.Rout,  
Appeal heard by : State Chief Information Commissioner, Assam

**O R D E R**  
**07/07/2022**

1. In continuation of earlier order dated 14.6.2022, the matter was taken up for hearing.
2. The petitioner Sri Joydeb Das is present.
3. The Public Authority is represented by Dr. Prasanta Barman, Deputy Registrar & SPIO, Gauhati University and he is accompanied by Sri Dipan Kumar Talukdar, Law Officer, Gauhati University.
4. The petitioner in his petition dated 14.2.2022 has prayed before the Commission to pass an order in connection with all academic and non-academic activity to be uploaded in Gauhati University website for transparency to be maintained in public eyes.
5. In questioning to clarify, the petitioner said that in construction related issues website shows the issuance of tender but nothing on the allotment of work order to the selected contractor with amount of fund and completion time etc etc. Similarly details of receipt of fund from Government, other sources and expenses are also not available.
6. The petitioner also stated that because of non-updating of the website, sometimes information in respect of RTI applications, is not given on the plea that the same is not traceable.
7. Further he referred to RTI provision on computerization of information and uploading in website.
8. The Commission would like to analyze the following provision of:-

**Section 4 in The Right To Information Act, 2005**

*Quote*

4. Obligations of public authorities.—

(1) Every public authority shall—

- (a) maintain all its records duly catalogued and indexed in a manner and the form which facilitates the right to information under this Act and ensure that all records that are appropriate to be computerised are, within a reasonable time and subject to availability of resources, computerised and connected through a network all over the country on different systems so that access to such records is facilitated;
- (b) publish within one hundred and twenty days from the enactment of this Act,—
- (i) the particulars of its organisation, functions and duties;
- (ii) the powers and duties of its officers and employees;
- (iii) the procedure followed in the decision making process, including channels of supervision and accountability;
- (iv) the norms set by it for the discharge of its functions;
- (v) the rules, regulations, instructions, manuals and records, held by it or under its control or used by its employees for discharging its functions;

- [\(vi\)](#) a statement of the categories of documents that are held by it or under its control;
  - [\(vii\)](#) the particulars of any arrangement that exists for consultation with, or representation by, the members of the public in relation to the formulation of its policy or implementation thereof;
  - [\(viii\)](#) a statement of the boards, councils, committees and other bodies consisting of two or more persons constituted as its part or for the purpose of its advice, and as to whether meetings of those boards, councils, committees and other bodies are open to the public, or the minutes of such meetings are accessible for public;
  - [\(ix\)](#) a directory of its officers and employees;
  - [\(x\)](#) the monthly remuneration received by each of its officers and employees, including the system of compensation as provided in its regulations;
  - [\(xi\)](#) the budget allocated to each of its agency, indicating the particulars of all plans, proposed expenditures and reports on disbursements made;
  - [\(xii\)](#) the manner of execution of subsidy programmes, including the amounts allocated and the details of beneficiaries of such programmes;
  - [\(xiii\)](#) particulars of recipients of concessions, permits or authorisations granted by it;
  - [\(xiv\)](#) details in respect of the information, available to or held by it, reduced in an electronic form;
  - [\(xv\)](#) the particulars of facilities available to citizens for obtaining information, including the working hours of a library or reading room, if maintained for public use;
  - [\(xvi\)](#) the names, designations and other particulars of the Public Information Officers;
  - [\(xvii\)](#) such other information as may be prescribed, and thereafter update these publications every year;
  - [\(c\)](#) publish all relevant facts while formulating important policies or announcing the decisions which affect public;
  - [\(d\)](#) provide reasons for its administrative or quasi judicial decisions to affected persons.
- [\(2\)](#) It shall be a constant endeavour of every public authority to take steps in accordance with the requirements of clause (b) of sub-section (1) to provide as much information suo motu to the public at regular intervals through various means of communications, including internet, so that the public have minimum resort to the use of this Act to obtain information.
- [\(3\)](#) For the purpose of sub-section (1), every information shall be disseminated widely and in such form and manner which is easily accessible to the public.
- [\(4\)](#) All materials shall be disseminated taking into consideration the cost effectiveness, local language and the most effective method of communication in that local area and the information should be easily accessible, to the extent possible in electronic format with the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, available free or at such cost of the medium or the print cost price as may be prescribed. Explanation.—For the purposes of sub-sections (3) and (4), “disseminated” means making known or communicated the information to the public through notice boards, newspapers, public announcements, media broadcasts, the internet or any other means, including inspection of offices of any public authority. *Unquote.*

And Quote

**Section 19(8) in The Right To Information Act, 2005**

(8) In its decision, the Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be, has the power to,—

[\(a\)](#) require the public authority to take any such steps as may be necessary to secure compliance with the provisions of this Act, including—

[\(i\)](#) by providing access to information, if so requested, in a particular form;

[\(ii\)](#) by appointing a Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be;

[\(iii\)](#) by publishing certain information or categories of information;

[\(iv\)](#) by making necessary changes to its practices in relation to the maintenance, management and destruction of records;

[\(v\)](#) by enhancing the provision of training on the right to information for its officials;

[\(vi\)](#) by providing it with an annual report in compliance with clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 4;

[\(b\)](#) require the public authority to compensate the complainant for any loss or other detriment suffered;

[\(c\)](#) impose any of the penalties provided under this Act;

[\(d\)](#) reject the application. *Unquote.*

9. The Commission in analyzing the above provisions advises Gauhati University through the SPIO to upload (both academic/non-academic) issues in the website. This will not only help petitioners but also reduce the hassles of the SPIO in tracing the materials under RTI Act,2005.

10. The case is disposed off.

Authenticated copies to be given to all concerned.

Sd/-  
(Dr. A.P. Rout)

Authenticated true copy.

Sd/-  
Registrar  
Assam Information Commission

**Memo No. SIC/KP(M)410/2021**

**Dtd. 7.7.2022**

Copy to:

1. The SPIO, Office of the Registrar, Gauhati University, Gopinath Bardoloi Nagar, Guwahati 14 for information and necessary action.
2. The petitioner Sri Joydeb Das, S/O Lt. Karunamoy Das, H.No.16, Kushal Konwar Road, Near Mayur Krishna Cinema Hall, Ambari Fatashil, Guwahati 25 for information. He is to remain present on the next date of hearing.
3. Computer Section for uploading in the Website.
4. Office File.
5. Order Book.

Registrar  
Assam Information Commission