

OFFICE OF THE  
**ASSAM INFORMATION COMMISSION**

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Case No. : SIC/KPM 330/2022  
Complainant/ Appellant : Shri Balaram Das  
Respondent : SPIO, State Institute of Panchayat & Rural  
Development, Assam, G.S.Road, Khanapara,  
Guwahati 22  
Date of Hearing : 10/08/2022  
Complaint/ Second : Dr. A.P.Rout,  
Appeal heard by State Chief Information Commissioner, Assam

**O R D E R**  
**10/08/2022**

1. The petitioner Shri Balaram Das has filed one RTI petition before the SPIO, State Institute of Panchayat & Rural Development, Assam, G.S.Road, Khanapara, Guwahati on 10.2.2022 seeking some information as per enclosures (copy enclosed).
2. The petitioner then filed 1<sup>st</sup> appeal before the 1<sup>st</sup> Appellate Authority, State Institute of Panchayat & Rural Development, Assam, G.S.Road, Khanapara, Guwahati on 6.5.2022 and then he filed 2<sup>nd</sup> appeal before the Commission on 4.7.2022.

Accordingly, the matter was taken up for hearing.

3. The petitioner Shri Balaram Das is present.
4. The Public Authority is represented by Shri Anupam Dutta, Deputy Director & PIO, SIPRD, Assam and he is accompanied by Heramba Nath, Administrative Officer, SIPRD, Assam.
5. The Director of SIPRD has submitted a written statement dated 9.8.2022 wherein it is mentioned that the RTI petition as well as 1<sup>st</sup> appeal petition were forwarded to 12 Extension Training Centres to provide the detailed information.
6. The petitioner said that the cost realization letter was issued, but after thirty days so he is not supposed to pay the cost and take the information free of cost.
7. After going through the statement of the petitioner as well as the written statement of the SPIO, the Commission orders that the petitioner should visit four training centers namely (1) ETC, SIPRD, Abhayapuri, Dist. Bongaigaon, Assam (2) EC, SIPRD, Saraighat, Bezera, Kamrup (3) ETC, SIPRD, Kahikuchi, Kamrup Metro (4) EC, SIPRD, Nalbari, Assam and collect the information personally.

Regarding other training centers, it will be the responsibility of the SPIOs SIPRD, as well as the respective training centers to give the information free of cost to the petitioner either through email or through registered post.

8. The Commission also observes that though the SPIO has transferred the RTI petition within four days (well within stipulated time). The training centers though calculated huge amount as cost of photocopies, but for realization of the cost issued takes almost after two to three months from receipt of the RTI petition which is contrary to the RTI provision.  
Had they intimated in time, probably Government could have benefitted by payment of few thousand of rupees by the petitioner.
9. In modern age when email and other means of communications are available and where confirmation on receipt of such information is also certain, the SPIO should have used those mode of communications and money could have been realized and RTI Act could not have been violated.

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).330/2022**

**Dtd. 10.08.2022**

Copy to:

1. The SPIO, State Institute of Panchayat & Rural Development, Assam, G.S.Road, Khanapara, Guwahati 22 for information and necessary action as ordered above.
2. The petitioner Shri Balaram Das, Special Reporter, Asom Live 24, G.S.Road, Guwahati 35 for information and necessary action.
3. Computer Section for uploading in the Website.
4. Office File.
5. Order Book.

Registrar  
Assam Information Commission