

ASSAM INFORMATION COMMISSION**JONAKEE COMPLEX, SHILPGRAM ROAD, PANJABARI, GUWAHATI- 781037**

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Case No. : SIC/BPT.1/2022
Complainant/ Appellant : Shri Kuntal Kalita.
Respondent : The SPIO, O/o the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-781006.
Date of Hearing : 09-05-2022
Complaint/ Second Appeal heard by : Dr. Samudra G. Kashyap.
State Information Commissioner, Assam.

O R D E R
09-05-2022

1. The appellant Shri Kuntal Kalita is present.
2. The SPIO, O/o the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Assam is absent. Shri Dina Nath Loying, FAA and Joint Director, Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Assam is present. He is assisted by Shri Anuj Kr. Das. Shri Dina Nath Loying verbally informed that the SPIO is on leave due to a bereavement in his family. The FAA has also submitted a written statement No. RTI/DIPR/2020/19/21 dated 09.05.2022.
3. From records it is seen that the appellant Shri Kuntal Kalita had submitted one RTI application on 29.04.2021 to the SPIO, Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati, seeking 2 (two) informations. On 30.07.2021 the SPIO provided him informations. On the same day the SPIO also forwarded a copy of the RTI application of Shri Kuntal Kalita to the District Information and Public Relations Officer, Barpeta. On 16.08.2021 the DIPRO, Barpeta provided a fresh set of informations to the applicant Shri Kuntal Kalita. Following this the appellant Shri Kalita on 21.08.2021 submitted a 1st Appeal stating that he has been provided only a part of the information he has sought. On 15.09.2021 the FAA held a hearing on the appellant's 1st Appeal. But since the appellant was absent in the hearing, the matter remained unresolved. On 23.12.2021 the appellant Shri Kuntal Kalita submitted a 2nd Appeal in this Commission.
4. During today's hearing the appellant Shri Kuntal Kalita said that he had sought 2 (two) informations – (i) Total Nos. of DIPR recognized I-Card holder local correspondents in Barpeta District, and (ii) Names of the first 10 such I-Card holders in Barpeta District, including year and date of issue in a chronological order. The appellant pointed out that in response to query No. 1 the SPIO, O/o the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Assam, vide reply dated 30.07.2021 informed him that there are 45 (forty-five) local correspondents in Barpeta holding I-card issued by the DIPR. In the reply furnished to Shri Kalita by the District Information and Public Relations Officer of Barpeta on 16.08.2021, the figure has been quoted as 41 (forty-one) persons. The appellant Shri Kalita said he has been obviously confused and dissatisfied with the discrepancies in total number of correspondents holding DIPR I-cards in Barpeta District, and prayed for a clarification on the same. Regarding his query No. 2, the appellant Shri Kuntal Kalita pointed out that while the SPIO, O/o the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Assam, Dispur, on 30.07.2021 informed him that there is no information available regarding the first 10 DIPR I-card holders correspondents of Barpeta District, the District Information and Public Relations Officer, Barpeta, in his reply dated 16.08.2021, informed him that there is no information about this in the district office. The appellants, during today's hearing wanted to know why

the DIPR, Head office and the DIPRO's office in the Barpeta do not have such important information. The Commission considers it to be a different query not mentioned in the original RTI application.

5. **But in view of the above, the SPIO, O/o the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Assam, Dispur, is directed to enquire further, locate the information and provide the appellant Shri Kuntal Kalita the exact figures as is available in the records. Care should be taken by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Assam, to maintain records in the appropriate manner as laid down in various Acts and Rules. Regarding the discrepancies in figures related to query No.1, the SPIO is directed to once again examine the records available in the Directorate as well as in the DIPRO's Office, Barpeta, so that the informations sought by the appellant Shri Kuntal Kalita can be provided accurately.**
6. **The informations shall be provided within 15 (fifteen) days from the receipt of this order.**
7. With the above order this 2nd Appeal is hereby disposed of.

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

Authenticated true copy.

Sd/-
Registrar
Assam Information Commission

Memo No. SIC/BPT.1/2022

Dated: 09-05-2022

Copy to:

1. The SPIO, O/o the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-781006, Assam, for information and necessary action.
2. First Appellate Authority/ Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-781006, Assam for information.
3. The petitioner, Shri Kuntal Kalita, S/o Shri Mahendra Kalita, Metuakuchi, Jania Path, Barpeta, PIN Code. 781301, Dist. Barpeta, Assam, for information.
4. Computer section for uploading in the website.
5. Office File.
6. Order Book.

Registrar
Assam Information Commission.