अधिकार अधिकार RIGHT TO INFORMATION

ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

An appeal case U/S 19(3) of RTI Act, 2005 Vide Case No.APIC-305/2025

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF SHRI VIJAY TARAM, THE STATE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER, UNDER SECTION 19(3) OF RTI ACT, 2005.

Shri Dogra Sagro

..... Appellant

-VERSUS-

PIO-Cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Khellong, West Kameng District, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh

..... Respondent.

Order: 25.09.2025.

JUDGEMENT

This is an appeal filed under sub-section (3) of Section 19 of the RTI Act, 2005. Brief fact of the case is that the Appellant Shri Dagra Sago on 30/12/2024 filed an RTI application under Form-'A' before the PIO-Cum- DFO Khellong Division West Kameng District., Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh whereby, seeking various information, as quoted in Form-A application. The Appellant, being not receiving the information from the PIO, filed the First Appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 4/02/2025, the Appellant again having not received the required information(s) even after the order from the FAA, filed the Second Appeal before the Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission on 8/04/2025 and the Registry of the Commission (APIC), having receipt of the Appeal registered it as APIC No-305/2025(Appeal) and processed the same for its hearing and disposal.

Accordingly, matter came up for hearing before the Commission for 1st hearing on 25//09/2025.

Details of information sought by the Appellant.

- 1. Detail of the released of the amount of the amount of the total Rs 122688924 (Rupees Twelve Crore Twenty Six Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Nine hundred Twenty Four) only of the competent authority work under the compensatory afforestation (CA) & Net Present Value (N.P.V) relevant documents and copy of NIT tender against the work and completion certificate/ utilization certificate/ voucher and name of agency for purchasing actual cost of scheme work and location of works with photography videography of completion of various categories of works and also copy of full and final bills paid by contractors name/ beneficiaries name and name of firm etc. and copy of enclosed with signature by contractor/ beneficiaries name bank account No. Both contractor and copy of MB book etc. Since 2023-2024.
- 2. List of various categories of contractors/ beneficiaries list and work order or NIT tender copy of since 2023-2024.
- 3. Copy of various categories of agreement made by contractors/ beneficiaries and name of firm, village and name of gram sabha along with counter signature, since 2023-2024.
- 4. Copy of various categories of Longitude and Latitude shown in the GPS map and name of location of village since 2023-2024.
- 5. Details of total (RMT) running meter of plantation boundary since 2023-2024.
- 6. Details of fencing using barbed wire or page wire and site expenditure cost since 2023-2024.
- 7. Details of material procurement (NIT) tender notice since 2023-2024.
- 8. Details of survival of seedling percentage and plantation implement since 2023-2024.
- 9. Details of released of the sum of amount under SADA/RE/BE/CSS. Relevant documents and copy of NIT tender against the work and completion certificate/ utilization certificate/ voucher and name of agency for Purchasing actual cost of scheme work and location of works with photography videography of completion of various categories of

works and also copy of full and final bills paid by contractors name/ beneficiaries name and name of firm etc. and copy of enclosed with signature by contractor/ beneficiaries name bank account No. Both contractor and copy of MB book etc. Since 2023-2024.

In the 1st hearing on 25th day of Sept '2025, the Appellant Shri Dogra Sago present during the hearing in person and the PIO- cum DFO Khellong, Forest Division also present during the hearing through online mode.

Heard both the parties.

The Appellant submitted as follows:

The Appellant filed an application on December 30, 2024, requesting detailed information regarding various schemes undertaken by the Khellong Forest Division under the funding heads CAMPA, NPV & CA, SADA, RE, BE, CSS for the years 2023 and 2024. But till now he has not been provided with the information.

The PIO stated;

- i) The PIO contended that the information sought by the Appellant are too voluminous, illogical, and vague, rendering it impossible to provide the requested information within the statutory time frame stipulated under the Right to Information (RTI) Act,
- ii) The PIO further mentioned that a letter was dispatched to the Appellant on 24/04/2025 requesting him to specify the particular information he required, highlighting that the overarching request covering Projects undertaken under seven schemes could lead to a compilation of thousands of pages of documentation. But the Appellant failed to respond to this letter till date.
- iii) The PIO, who has recently assumed office for merely three months, indicated an inability to produce the requested information due to its extensive nature. For instance, one scheme CAMPA consists of about 250 projects, with the Appellant requesting information from sanction orders, tendering process measurement details, preparation of bills, and payment details to GPS coordinates of the places where the works have been carried out. And information under 7(seven) Schemes as sought by the Appellant, there will be thousands of projects and to provide information for thousand of works in one go will be impossible to be provided and above all, the instant Appellant not being the single person applying for such information(s), as this office is flooded with RTI application from other individuals also.
- iv) The PIO stated that the government allocates a nominal budget of ₹30,000 for official expenses for a period of three months, which is insufficient to manage the extensive documentation and the diverse array of RTI requests received from many other individuals alongside other official duties to cover up with the meagre O/E fund.

HEARING AND ANALYSIS:

Both parties presented their arguments. The Appellant emphasized his personal interest in obtaining the information, while the PIO underscored the need for specific requests to facilitate compliance with the RTI Act.

The Commission finds that:

The application filed by the Appellant is excessively vague and covers a wide range of information spanning multiple schemes, leading to a potentially burdensome request for the PIO.

The PIO's request for specificity were reasonable and necessary to manage the workload within available resources effectively.

The RTI Act is designed to promote transparency and public interest; however, it also obligates applicants to frame precise requests that can be practically addressed.

Now therefore, the Commission hereby orders

In light of the aforementioned points, the Commission concludes that the appeal is dismissed. The Appellant is advised to submit a revised application if need be, specifying the exact information required, to assist the PIO in fulfilling her duties without undue burden.

And under above facts and circumstances this appeal is dismissed and closed with liberty given to the Appellant for filing a fresh application to the same PIO on the same subject of information, but specifying the particular information(s) he requires and not being vague like in the instant application.

Judgment order pronounced in the open Court of this Commission today on this 25th day of Sept' 2025.

Copy of judgment order be furnished to both the parties.

Given under my hand and seal of this Commission/Court on this 25th day of Sept 2025.

(Vijay Taram)
State Information Commissioner
APIC-Itanagar

Memo.No.APIC-305/A/2025/914

Dated Itanagar, theOctober, 2025.

Copy to:

1. PIO-Cum-DFO, Khellong, W/Kameng District, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh for information and necessary action please. Pin Code-790114.

Shri Dogra Sagro, Bhalukpong, W/Kameng, District Arunachal Pradesh for information please. Contact No. 7636844644
 The Computer Programmer, APIC for uploading on the Website of APIC please.

3. The Comp 4. Office Copy

> Registrar/Dy. Registrar APIC, Itanagar.

Deputy Registrar

Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission

Hanager