



**ARUNACHAL PRADESH INFORMATION COMMISSION, APIC
ITANAGAR**

An Appeal Case U/S 19(3) of RTI Act, 2005
Vide Case No.APIC-312/A/2025

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF SHRI KHOPEY THALEY, STATE
INFORMATION COMMISSIONER**

Shri Riya Taram & Others

Appellant

Versus

PIO-Cum-EE, Dept. of PWD, Palin Division

Respondent

Date of hearing : 08/09/2025
Date of decision/Judgment : 08/09/2025

INFORMATION COMMISSIONER : Shri Khopey Thaley

Relevant facts emerging from Appeal :

RTI application file on : 24/01/2024
PIO replied on :
First appeal file on : 24/02/2024
First Appellate Authority's order :
2nd Appeal date : 03/04/2025

Information sought :

The appellant file an RTI Application dated 24/01/2024 seeking Details regarding –the implemented development works under the funding head of RE/BE from 2019-2025.

As per the case record, PIO has never conduct the hearing under his jurisdiction.

Being dissatisfied, the appellant filed First Appeal dated 24/02/2024. No hearing has been conducted by the First Appellate in this regard. Feeling aggrieved and dissatisfied, appellant approached the Commission with instant Second Appeal.

The following were present.

Appellant : Shri Riya Taram, Bengia Tahar & Lokam Namdu absent.
Respondent : PIO-cum-EE, Dept. of PWD, Palin Division absent.

JUDGMENT/ORDER

This is an appeal filed under sub-section (3) of section 19 of RTI, 2005. Brief fact of the case is that the appellant **Shri Riya Taram & others** on 24/01/2024 filed an RTI application under Form- 'A' before the PIO-Cum-EE, Dept. of PWD, Palin Division, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh whereby seeking various information, as quoted in Form-A application. The Appellant, being not satisfied with the information received from the PIO, filed the First Appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 24/02/2024, Appellant, again having not received the required information from the FAA, filed the Second Appeal before the Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission on 08/04/2025 and the Registry of the Commission (APIC), having receipt of the appeal, registered it as **APIC No. 312/A/025(Appeal)** and processed the same for its hearing and disposal.

Accordingly, matter came up for hearing before the Commission for first time i.e on 08/09/2025. In this hearing of the appeal on 8th day of September, 2025, the appellant Shri Riya Taram & Others absent and the PIO-cum-EE, Dept. of PWD, Palin Division absent. The appellant is directed to file before the F.A.A for the information under Section 6 of RTI Act which he is seeking. The FAA-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Palin, District:- Kra-Daadi, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh is directed to take up case and dispose as per Section-7 of RTI Act, 2005 within 30 days on receipt of the request.

It is seen from the case record that no any documents seen in the case record which shows that hearing has been conducted before the First Appellate Authority-cum-I Deputy Commissioner, Palin, Kra-Daadi District.

Under Section 19(1) of the Act, the First Appellate Authority (FAA), the intermediate level, has to adjudicate on the Appeal, if any, filed by the information seekers against the decision of the PIO.

As laid down at para-38 of the Guidelines for the FAA issued by the GOI and the State Govt., adjudication on the appeals under the RTI Act is a quasi-judicial function. It is, therefore, necessary that the Appellate Authority should see to it that the justice is not only done but it should also appear to have been done. In order to do so, the order passed by the appellate authority should be a speaking order giving justification for the decision arrived at.

The First Appellate Authority (FAA), following the principle of natural justice, should conduct hearing giving fair and equal opportunity to both the appellant and the PIO and thereafter must pass reasoned and speaking order on merit within 30 days from the date of receipt of the appeal or else the action of the FAA would be considered as procedural lapse on the part of the FAA. Further, it is noticed that the Appellant in most case do not wait for the orders of the First Appellate Authority (FAA) and directly prefer appeals before the 2nd Appellate Authority without attaching a copy of order passed by the First Appellate Authority (FAA) unintelligently.

Here, it is germane to note that for availing 2nd appeal before the 2nd Appellate Authority, the Appellant has been given 90 days' time from the date of order passed by the First Appellate Authority (FAA). The 2nd appeal, if he/she is dissatisfied with the decision of the First Appellate

Authority (FAA), must be accompanied by the orders passed by the First Appellate Authority (FAA).

The appeal is accordingly remand back to the First Appellate Authority for adjudication and passing an appropriate order who, being the officer senior in rank to the PIO and well versed with the knowledge of the functioning of the department, shall apply his mind and go into the aspects like what kind of information was sought by appellant in his application, whether the same and could be provided or whether the same is exempted under the relevant provisions of section 8 of the Act or whether the information relates to matter covered by Section 11 of the RTI Act etc and then pass a speaking order giving justification for his decision within 3 (three) weeks from the date of receipt of this order.

Therefore, perusing the case records, the Commission deemed fit to remand back the appeal case **APIC No. 312/A/2025(appeal)** to First Appellate Authority for proper hearing. The case is disposed with liberty to appellant to prefer second appeal if dissatisfied Or aggrieved by the decision of the First Appellate Authority for which no fees need be paid.

Judgment/Order pronounced in the open Court of this Commission today on this **8th day of September, 2025**. Each copy of Judgment/Order be furnished to the parties.

Given under my hand and seal of this Commission/Court on this **8th day of September, 2025**.

Sd/-
(Khohey Thaley)
State Information Commissioner
APIC, Itanagar.

Memo.No.APIC-312/A/2025
Copy to:

Dated Itanagar, the **11th** September, 2025

- The FAA-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Palin, Kra-Daadi Distt., Pin Code:- 791118, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh to summon both the parties and hear the appeal and dispose off the case within 30 days on receipt of this order.
- The PIO-cum-EE, Dept. of PWD, Palin, Kra-Daadi District, Pin Code:-791118 for information and necessary action.
- Shri Riya Taram, Bengia Tahar & Lokam Namdu, Rieng Store Near Catholic Church Jullang, Itanagar, Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh for information please. Contact No.**9383103387/9402443699**.
- The Computer Programmer for upload on the Website of APIC, please.
- Office Copy.


Dy. Registrar/Registrar
APIC, Itanagar
Deputy Registrar
Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission
Itanagar