



ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

An appeal case U/S 19(3) of RTI Act, 2005

Vide Case No.APIC-331/2024

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

Shri Nibo Pao & Others

..... Appellant

-VERSUS-

PIO-Cum- Divisional Forest Officer,
Namsai Forest Division, Namsai District,
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh

..... Respondent.

Order: 30.10.2025.

JUDGEMENT

This is an appeal filed under sub-section (3) of Section 19 of the RTI 2005. Brief fact of the case is that the Appellants Shri Vijay Bodo, Nibo Pao, Tawa Yomdo, Japo Tali, Jiten Lora, Arun Dodum, Adv. Tai Siva and others on **27/08/2024** filed an RTI application in Form- 'A' before the PIO-cum-DFO, Namsai Forest Division, Namsai District, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh. Whereby seeking various information as quoted in Form 'A' application. The Appellants being not receiving the information from the PIO, they filed the First Appeal before the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **22/10/2024**. The Appellants again having not received the required information from the FAA, filed the Second Appeal before the Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission on **29/11/2024** and the Registry of the Commission (APIC) having receipt of the Appeal registered it as APIC-No. **331/2024** (Appeal) and processed the same for its hearing and disposal.

Accordingly, matter came up for hearing before the Commission on **30.10.2025** wherein the Appellant Shri Vijay Bodo is present among the Appellants during the hearing before the Commission.

The PIO-cum-DFO, Namsai Forest Division, Namsai District, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh found absent during the hearing before the Commission.

Details of information(s) sought from the PIO;

1. Projects wise Chart showing the enumeration of trees, species, and girth wise volume in respect of diversion of forest lands,
2. Projects wise statements showing number of trees volume and valuation of trees in respect of diversion of forest lands,
3. Projects wise detail estimates for departmental timber operation against extraction of trees in respect of diversion of forest lands,
4. Projects wise abstract of Royalty and Departmental timber operation,
5. Projects wise detail estimates for creation of compensatory afforestation for diversion of forest lands with maps,
6. Projects wise certificates from the competent authority regarding suitability area identified for compensatory afforestation,
7. Projects wise site inspection reports,
8. Year wise amount receipts under AP State CAMPA from the office of PCCF, department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Itanagar, Govt of AP,
9. Year wise payment made with cheque counterfoils, money receipts and bank statements of DDO/DFO Namsai Forest division, and
10. All types of Reserved Forests Notifications in Namsai forest division with minute of meeting and agreement copies, if any.

Period for which information is required: -2014 to 2024.

Heard the representative of the Appellants, Shri Vijay Bodo;

1. Background;

The Appellant, Shri Vijay Bodo, representing all the other Appellants stated that they have filed RTI application in group in all the districts of Arunachal Pradesh in all the forest divisions for all the schemes that have been sanctioned and executed by concerned forest divisions w.e.f 2014 to 2024.

While hearing and recording the statements of the Appellant Shri Vijay Bodo, it is very clear that they have formed a syndicate to file RTI application in all the departments in all the districts of Arunachal Pradesh for all the schemes from 2014 to 2024 which is in fact not bona fide on the face of the application and by the statement of the Appellant itself .

2. Legal Framework;

The Right to Information Act, 2005, is designed to promote transparency and accountability in the functioning of public authorities. Section 6(1) of the RTI Act expressly states, "A person can file an application and not persons," indicating the person-centric nature of such applications. The Act was not intended for syndical or collective applications from groups of people aiming to exploit its provisions for personal or ulterior motives.

3. Observations;

Upon careful consideration of the instant appeal, the following key observations are made:

- i) **Misuse of RTI Act:** The filing of numerous RTI applications by the same group of individuals, covering the same information across different forest divisions in the entire State of Arunachal Pradesh, strongly suggests an intention to harass public officials. This behavior undermines the spirit of the RTI Act, which aims to encourage genuine inquiries for the public interest.
- ii) **Professional Misconduct:** The phenomenon of filing RTI applications in a syndicate manner raises serious ethical questions. It is evident that such actions not only burden public authorities but also border on professional misconduct, suggesting that these applicants are seeking to gain improperly at the expense of public officials.
- iii) **Harassment of Public Officers:** The persistent and repetitive nature of the application as well as appeals constitutes a form of harassment against public officers. This Court believes that the RTI Act should not be weaponized to intimidate those in public service, and such practices should not be condoned or encouraged.

4. Conclusion;

In light of the above observations, it is necessary to uphold the integrity of the RTI Act and prevent its misuse. The appeal filed by group persons collectively amount to filing applications for the same set of information against the same forest divisions across all districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

This judgment addresses the appeal filed under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter referred to as "RTI Act") by a group of individuals seeking access to information from all forest divisions regarding various schemes across all districts of Arunachal Pradesh from the year 2014 to 2024. The Appellants have collectively filed multiple RTI applications, across the departments of the State raising identical queries, which raises significant legal and ethical concerns about the intent and methodology behind these applications.

Therefore, it is ordered that this instant appeal is hereby dismissed. Furthermore, the behavior exhibited by the appellants is strongly discouraged, and any further attempts to misuse the RTI Act for harassment or personal gain will be met with appropriate legal consequences.

Order;

In view of the above facts and circumstance the Commission dismiss this Appeal. And, accordingly, this Appeal stands dismissed and closed once for all.

Judgment pronounced in the open Court of this Commission today on this 30th day of October' 2025. Copy of this Judgment be furnished to the parties.

Given under my hand and seal of this Commission/Court on this 30th day of October' 2025.

Sd/-

(Vijay Taram)

State Information Commissioner
APIC-Itanagar

Memo.No.APIC-331/A/2024/951

Dated Itanagar, the 07th November, 2025.

Copy to:

1. PIO-Cum-DFO, Namsai Forest Div. Namsai District, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh for information and necessary action please. **Pin Code-792103.**
2. Shri Nibo Pao & Others, Polo Colony, Naharlagun, P/Pare District Arunachal Pradesh for information please. **Contact No. 6909933073/9383183531**
- ✓ 3. The Computer Programmer, APIC for uploading on the Website of APIC please.
- ✓ 4. Office Copy

Registrar/Dy. Registrar
APIC, Itanagar.

Registrar
Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission
Itanagar