

# ARUNACHAL PRADESH INFORMATION COMMISSION, APIC **ITANAGAR**

An Appeal Case U/S 19(3) of RTI Act, 2005. Vide Case No. APICS-358/2024

## BEFORE THE COURT OF SHRI KHOPEY THALEY, STATE INFORMATION **COMMISSIONER**

(Summon to appear in person) (Or. 5, R.3 of CPC)

Appellant: Shri Khya Changrang PIO-cum-SE(RWD), Western Zone, Ita

The 4<sup>th</sup> hearing was held on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2025 related to the APIC No-358/2024 (Appeal). The PIO-cum-SE(RWD), Western Zone is represented by Shri G. Tarak and the appellant Shri Khya Changramg present in person.

The appellant has stated before the Commission that out of 19 (nineteen) divisions, 9 (nine) divisions has furnished the information. The information from EE (PWD), Laaying Yangte is available in the Office of Chief Engineer (PWD).

As per the order dated 09/06/2025 on 3<sup>rd</sup> hearing the Counsel for M/S ZEE Engineering Construction made an oral submission for rejection of the application sought as per the Form 'A' except information sought at Sl. No. 2 & 3 and the appellant was given chance to make submission with reference to recent rulings.

Today all the parties are present, the Counsel for the Third Party M/s ZEE Engineering Constructions made his oral submission of rejecting to furnish the information as sought to the Appellant. He made his rejection mainly on Sl. No. 4 & 5 in the Form 'A' application.

The appellant has not shown any larger public interest involved to the information sought for.

The Third Party M/s ZEE Engineering & Construction has stated before the Commission and submitted a written objection refusing to furnish information sought by the appellant especially at serial No. 4 & 5 of the Form 'A'. It also stated that the appellant Khya Changrang, participated in the online Global tender of VVP Project representing M/s Ragiaku Enterprises but lost the bid and M/s ZEE Engineering & Construction won. Due to vindictive intention, the appellant has sought the information of third party.

# Certain sections of the RTI Act allow withholding information.

- Section 8 (1) (d) Protects information that could harm competitive position of a third party (e.g., trade secret, commercial confidence).
- Section 8(1)(e)- Covers information held in a fiduciary capacity (e.g., audit queries before finalization).

Section8(1)(j) - Protects personal information unless public interest outweighs the harm.

#### Section11- Third Party Information.

Section 11 of the Right to Information Act, 2005, which deals with third party information – a key area for transparency and confidentiality balance in governance.

## The Section applies when the requested information:

Relates to or was supplied by a third party and Has been treated as confidential by that third party. Disclosure may be allowed if public interest outweighs any potential harm to the third party's interests – except in cases involving trade or commercial secrets protected by law.

The Commission observed that RTI Act generally applies to public authority and organisation substantially on funding by the Government. It does not directly apply to private sole proprietorship unless they have a significant public funding component.

Information like the business's financial statement customer lists or trade secrets would be considered confidential and generally not accessible to third parties without the owner's consent.

The information sought at sl. No. 4 & 5 are related to third party information which does not have any direct public interest.

RTI Act is not a surveillance tool and cannot be used to gather personal details of others without strong and demonstrated public cause.

The appellant has failed to establish any larger public interest that would warrant overriding the exemptions provided under the Act.

Therefore, the PIO's are directed to provide the information as sought by the appellant in Form 'A' except for Sl. No. 4 & 5.

The Chief Engineer (RWD), Western Zone is directed to give notice to all the Executive Engineer (RWD) of the 9 Division Poma, Seppa, Daporijo, Ziro, Bameng, Jamin, Raga, Tali and Likabali for providing information as sought in Form 'A' except for Sl. No. 4 & 5.

The Commission fixed next date of hearing on 08/12/2025 at 1030 hours

NB:- The PIOs and appellants can also avail online mode of hearing by downloading "Webex App" from Google Playstore and may contact Shri Himanshu Verma at 8319014957 for further technical assistance.

Sd/-

(Khopey Thaley) State Information Commissioner APIC, Itanagar.

Dated Itanagar, the...24...September, 2025.

Copy to:

Memo. No. APIC-358/2024 / 796

1. The PIO-cum-Superintendent Engineer (RWD), O/o the Chief Engineer (RWD), Western Zone, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar for information.

2. M/s ZEE Engineering & Construction, B-Sector, Naharlagun Hospital Road, Arunachal Pradesh for information.

3. Shri Khya Changrang Niti Vihar, Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh for information & necessary action, Contact No. 6909447588

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