

ARUNACHAL PRADESH INFORMATION COMMISSION (APIC) ITANAGAR

(Before the Hon'ble Information Commissioner Mr Dani Gamboo)

AN APPEAL UNDER SECTION 19 (3) OF RTI ACT, 2005.

APIC-No.607/2023(Appeal)

Shri Tamchi Gungte Near KV2 School Chimpu Itanagar Papumpare District A.P Pin: 791113. (M) 8257994249/9233567279.

Appellant

Versus

1.PIO cum BDO CD Block Pipsorang Kra-Dadi District Govt. of AP. Pin: 791118.

Respondents

2. FAA cum PD DRDA Palin Kra-Dadi District Govt. of AP. Pin: 791118.

Date 29.07.2024

JUDGEMENT / ORDER

This is an appeal filed under sub-section (3) of the Section 19 of the RTI Act. 2005. Brief fact of the case is that the appellant Shri Tamchi Gungte on 23.04.2023 filed an RTI application in Form-A to the PIO cum BDO CD Block Pipsorang Kra-Dadi District AP, whereby, seeking various information as quoted in Form-A application.

Appellant being not received information from the PIO, filed the First Appeal before the First Appellate Authority cum PD DRDA Palin Kra-Dadi District Govt. of AP on 16.05.2023.

Appellant again having not received the required information and decision from FAA, filed the Second Appeal before the Arunachal Pradesh information

Commission on 03.07.2023. The appellant has not attached any order of decision or response from the FAA.

The Registry of the Commission (APIC), on receipt of the appeal, registered it as APIC-No.607/2023 (Appeal) and processed the same for its hearing and disposal.

Accordingly, this matter came up for first hearing before the Commission Court today on 29.07.2024. Notice of hearing dated 19.06.2024 were served to FAA, PIO and the Appellant.

In this hearing of the appeal on 29.07.2024 the respondents PIO cum BDO CD Block Pipsorang Kra-Dadi District absent. However, the PIO is represented by Shri Taji Sorang EO (RE). The appellant Shri Tamchi Gungte appeared. The FAA cum PD DRDA Palin Kra-Dadi District AP did not appear.

Heard the parties present.

The appellant states that neither information document has been furnished to him by the PIO nor FAA has heard his appeal to dispose of the case at his / her level within prescribed time period. So, he filed this 2nd appeal to the Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission and prayed for necessary action as deemed fit.

The representative of the PIO could not substantiate any reason for not furnishing the information sought within prescribed time period. He informs that current PIO is newly posted and information is kept ready to furnish to the applicant.

On perusal of the case file, it is observed that there is no action on record taken by the FAA on the first appeal filed by the appellant. The FAA was issued summon dated 19.06.2024 for hearing 0n 29.07.2024 as required under Art.5 (iv) of Arunachal Pradesh Information commission (Appeal Procedure) Rule, 2005 framed under clause (e) of the sub section (2) of the section 27 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. FAA - the Project Director, DRDA Kra Daadi district, instead of attending the hearing simply forwarded the hearing notice issued to him to PIO - BDO Pipsorang CD Block vide letter no. DRDA/KD/RTI-01/2016-17786 dated 11 July 2024 which is absurd.

This casual action of the FAA is negligence to implementation of provisions of RTI Act 2005 which was enacted to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority and also to contain corruption and to hold governments and their instrumentalities accountable to the governed. Or the PD DRDA Kra Daadi district is ignorant about his duties and function as First Appellate Authority in disposal of RTI Appeal cases.

As laid down at para-38 of the Guidelines for the FAA issued by the GoI and the State Govt. OM No. AR-111/2008 Dated 21st August, 2008, adjudication on the appeals under 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.

Therefore, the First Appellate Authority (FAA) - PD DRDA Palin Kra Daadi district, following the principle of natural justice, shall conduct hearing giving fair and equal opportunity to both the appellant and the PIO and thereafter pass reasoned and speaking order on merit within three weeks from the date of receipt of this order. Therefore, this appeal is remanded to the First Appellate Authority (FAA) - PD, DRDA, Palin Kra Daadi district, AP.

In view of the above facts and circumstances I find this appeal is fit to be disposed of and closed at Commission. And, accordingly, this appeal stands disposed of and closed once for all.

Judgement / Order pronounced in the Open Court of this Commission today this 29^{th} day of July 2024. Each copy of the Judgement / Order be furnished to the parties.

Given under my hand and seal of this Commission / Court on this 29^{th} day of July' 2024.

Sd/-(Dani Gamboo) State Information Commissioner APIC, Itanagar

Memo No.APIC-607/2023/

Dated Itanagar the July' 2024.

- 1. The FAA cum PD DRDA Palin Kra-Dadi District Govt. of AP. Pin: 791118.
- The PIO cum BDO CD Block Pipsorang Kra-Dadi District Govt. of AP. Pin: 791118.
- 3. Shri Tamchi Gungte Near KV2 School Chimpu Itanagar papumpare District A.P Pin: 791113. (M) 8257994249/9233567279.
- 4. Computer Programmer Itanagar APIC to upload in APIC website and mailed to concerned department email.

5. Office copy.

Registrar / Dy.Registrar

Arunachal Prodesh Internation Commission
Itanagai