

No. C.33/09-MSIC
MIZORAM STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
KHATLA : AIZAWL

Dr. L.H. Chhuanawma, ... Complainant
Lecturer,
Dept. of Political Science,
P.U. College

Vrs

SPIO, Environment & Forests Department, ... Respondent
Mizoram, Aizawl.

ORDER
(27.3.2009)

A complaint has been submitted by Dr. L.H. Chhuanawma against the SPIO of the Environment & Forests Department, Mizoram, for not giving the information requested for. A complaint case was registered under No. C. 33/09-MSIC.

The short facts of the case are that Dr. L.H. Chhuanawma, Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Pachhunga University College, Aizawl, requested the SPIO & Deputy Conservator of Forests (Hqrs), Aizawl, to give information on the funds received by the Government of Mizoram from the Government of India during 2007-08 and 2008-09 and their utilizations. The complainant also indicated that he preferred to get the information directly and personally from the SPIO. However, the SPIO, rather than giving the information to the applicant, informed the concerned Divisional Forest Officers in the Districts to give the information direct to the applicant. Aggrieved with the manner in which the information was intended to be given, the complainant approached the Information Commission to get the required information from the SPIO.

The SPIO was noticed to appear before the Commission on 17.3.2009 to clarify the position. The SPIO appeared and was heard. In the course of hearing, the SPIO clarified that the Government of India funds under the Forest Development Agencies were given by the Government of India directly to the Agencies and not to the State Government and that copies of sanctions and utilization certificates were given to the Environment & Forests Department only. The SPIO was directed to submit copies of such sanction orders and utilization certificates to the Commission for perusal. The SPIO submitted the required documents on 24.3.2009.

Perusal of the documents submitted by the SPIO confirms the statement of the SPIO that the Government of India funds under the Forest Development Agencies were directly sent to the Agencies and not to the Environment & Forests Department. Therefore, the Environment & Forests Department has no original responsibility in the case. We are of the opinion that the SPIO has done right in informing the Divisional Forest Officers who are the Chief Executive Officers of their respective Forest Development Agencies to give the required information direct to the applicant and that he cannot be held responsible for not giving the required information to the applicant.

In the circumstances, the complaint cannot be entertained as per rules and the case stands disposed of.


(K. TLANTHANGA)
Information Commissioner




(ROBERT HRANGDAWLA)
Chief Information Commissioner