

# MIZORAM INFORMATION COMMISSION MINECO, KHATLA, MIZORAM: AIZAWL

Case No: S.A. 199/2025-MIC

Udondi Chakma, ...Appellant

Bangalore

Vs

1. Er. Netralal Jaisi, SPIO & Sr. Executive Engineer PHED, Lawngtlai WATSAN Division ...Respondent

2. K. Zohmingliana,
DAA & Superintending Engineer
PHED, Lawngtlai WATSAN Division

RTI application filed on	:	16.12.2024
SPIO replied on	:	15.01.2025
First appeal filed on	:	16.01.2025
Appellate Authority reply	:	07.02.2025
Second Appeal dated	:	07.02.2025
Date of Hearing	:	12.03.2025 at 12:00 Noon
Date of Decision	:	12.03.2025

The Chief Information Commissioner Pu John Neihlaia and the Information Commissioner Pu Mangjangam Touthang presided over the hearing.

# **Information sought**

- 1. Copy of the list of all vendors including the names, and contact numbers empanelled under the Chawngte WATSAN Sub-Division for supplying materials for the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Scheme.
- 2. Details of all the materials supplied by HNF enterprise including the department purchase bill.

## **Grounds for the Second Appeal**

The appellant is of the opinion that both the respondent SPIO and DAA provided misleading information as he was informed that there are no vendors empanelled under Chawngte WATSAN Sub-Division, PHED for supply of materials under JJM Scheme and that HNF Enterprise has not supplied any materials to the PHE Department.

### Relevant facts emerging during the hearing

The appellant, respondent SPIO and the DAA all attended the hearing via Video Conferencing and were given opportunities to state their positions.

### **Appellant's statement:**

The appellant narrated his dissatisfaction with the replies he had received and mentioned that he was clearly told by a reliable source that there is a vendor and it is very difficult to accept that there are no registered vendors for a multi-crore project.

# **Respondent's statement:**

In reply, the SPIO stated that there are no empanelled vendors but materials are actually supplied by suppliers who are chosen as per convenience of the work. When asked if he has anything to say, the DAA also stated that his reply is the same as that of the SPIO.

#### **OBSERVATIONS:**

- 1. As per DoPT's memo no. A.1/18/2011-IR dt. 16.09.2011, "The Public Information Officer is not supposed to create information; or to interpret information; or to solve the problems raised by the applicant; or to furnish replies to hypothetical questions". Therefore, the appellant should keep in mind that the SPIO is bound to provide only the information that is available and existing.
- 2. For every First Appeal received, the DAA, being vested with quasi-judicial powers, should hear both the parties viz appellant and respondent. The DAA, shall in every case inform the

date of hearing at least seven (7) clear days before the date fixed. Order of the DAA shall be pronounced in open court and be in writing duly authenticated by the DAA for this purpose. Pu K. Zohmingliana, DAA & Superintending Engineer, PHED, Lawngtlai WATSAN Division is informed to strictly adhere to the relevant positions of the RTI Act for every First Appeal received by him in future.

3. Point No. 2 of the summon dated 19.02.2025 issued to both the appellant and respondents clearly mentioned that, "Both the appellant and respondent can appear through a video conferencing link which will be made available 15 minutes prior to the hearing" and the time of hearing was fixed for 12:00 Noon. However, the appellant joined the hearing only on 12:10 PM i.e., 10 minutes later. He is warned not to repeat the same in future.

#### **DECISION:**

In view of the above, the Commission hereby directs that Er. Netralal Jaisi, SPIO & Sr. Executive Engineer, PHED, Lawngtlai WATSAN Division shall give in writing to the appellant that there are no empanelled/registered vendors and that HNF Enterprise has not supplied any material under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Scheme and submit compliance report to MIC not later than 28.03.2025 (Friday).

The appeal is disposed of accordingly. Copy of decision to be given, free of cost, to all parties.

(MANGJANGAM TOUTHANG)
Information Commissioner

Mizoram Information Commission

(JOHN NEIHLAIA)

**Chief Information Commissioner**Mizoram Information Commission