



MIZORAM INFORMATION COMMISSION

(Under the RTI Act, 2005)

MINECO, KHATLA, AIZAWL

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Case No. S.A. 365/2026-MIC

*P.C. Lalsawmliana,
Ramhlun Venglai, Aizawl.*

...Appellant

Vs

*Pu Lalrinmawia,
Superintending Engineer,
P&E, Aizawl Power Circle.*

...Respondents

RTI application filed on	:	25.02.2026
SPIO replied on	:	NIL
First Appeal filed on	:	13.04.2026
FAA issued order/replied on	:	NIL
Second Appeal received on	:	26.05.2026
Date & Time of hearing	:	16.06.2026 at 12:00 Noon.
Date of decision	:	16.06.2026

Pu John Neihlaia, State Chief Information Commissioner presided over the hearing. Pu Mangjangam Touthang, State Information Commissioner and Dr. Lalzirmawia Chhange, State Information Commissioner were present and participated in the hearing.

The appellant and the respondents took an oath before commencement of the hearing.

FACTS EMERGING DURING THE HEARING:

1. The applicant sought information via RTI Online as follows: -

- i. *Tun Feb, 2026 electric bill rawn kal ah khan bill rawng pung vak/hluai mai kha News leh Social Media vel atang a kan lo hriat leh hmuh dan in Power and Electricity hotu P&E Secretary, Pi K. Lalrinzuali leh hotu dangte khan ni 17 Feb,26 khan Electric Bill Feb,2026 rawn pun chhan kha SMART METRE hmang vang a nih thu kha an sawi tel a. Kha kha SMART METRE vang a ni reng em nge thil dang vang?*

- ii. *AMC Area ah hian Electric 'Smart Metre' hmang chhungkaw engzatnge awm tawh?*
 - iii. *Smart Metre vuah hi Compulsory nge duhthlan theih a ni? Compulsory/Duhthlan theih a nihdan hi India Power and Electricity Act in engtinng a sawi?*
 - iv. *Smart Metre an rawn vuah hun ah pawisa chawi ngai a awm em?*
 - v. *Consumer Number 1000001030 (RL Zomawia) hi January 2024 atang a tun kum January 2026 thleng a thlatin unit hman zat leh bill rawn kaldan/rawn kal zat min hrilh turin ka dil a che.*
 - vi. *Electric bill hi unit khat ah engzat tur nge?*
2. As both the SPIO did not attend to the RTI application and the FAA remained silent on the First Appeal, the appellant preferred Second Appeal. Summons were issued to the appellant and designated SPIO and FAA on the RTI online portal to appear before the Commission on 16.06.2026 (Tuesday) at 12:00 Noon. However, after the summons was issued, it was found that the designated SPIO and FAA listed on the RTI portal had already left their posts. However, as scheduled, hearing was held wherein Pu Lalrinmawia, Superintending Engineer, Aizawl Power Circle who was accompanied by Pu Lalngaihsaka, Executive Engineer, Distribution Division and Pu J.V. Lalthangliana, SDO, Distribution Sub-Division-III attended on behalf of the public authority. All the parties were present in person.
 3. In the hearing, the appellant stated that since both officials failed to perform their duties under the RTI Act, he had submitted Second Appeal so that he can get the required information.
 4. Pu Lalrinmawia apologized on behalf of the SPIO and stated that they can provide the information sought to the appellant.

OBSERVATIONS: -

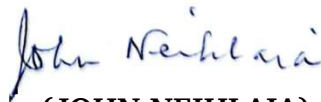
1. The Commission expresses its dissatisfaction and serious concern over the gross administrative negligence displayed by P&E, Aizawl Power Circle. By failing to update its active State Public Information Officer (SPIO) and First Appellate Authority (FAA) profiles on the RTI online portal for a prolonged period, the public authority has effectively compromised the statutory mechanism of the RTI Act. This prolonged lapse has created an inconvenience to RTI applicants where multiple information requests may likely be pending and unaddressed. Such lapses defeat the very purpose of the Act, leaving applicants waiting helplessly for months or years without recourse, completely denied their legal right to timely information.

2. The Commission finds that the P&E, Aizawl Power Circle, has fundamentally violated the mandatory statutory provisions of Section 7(1) of the RTI Act, 2005. Under Section 7(1), an SPIO is under a strict legal obligation to either provide the requested information or reject the application with valid reasons within thirty days from the receipt of the request. By completely abandoning their RTI online portal profiles and leaving the posts of SPIO and FAA unassigned and un-updated for a long period of time, the public authority rendered the timely disposal of applications impossible. This systemic failure means that incoming requests could neither be processed, reviewed, nor responded to within the legally prescribed timeframe. Such prolonged inaction does not merely constitute a delay; it amounts to an outright and continuous breach of the statutory timeline, thereby actively denying citizens their fundamental right to information within the stipulated period under the Act. This inaction by the public authority is a serious violation of the provisions of the RTI Act as nonresponse is considered “**deemed refusal**” of the request and would amount to denial of information which can be dealt with as per Section 20 of the RTI Act, 2005.
3. The Commission observes that the Engineer-in-Chief & FAA, Power & Electricity Department should take an exceptionally serious view of this systemic failure. Leaving RTI online portal profiles obsolete for a prolonged period reflects a clear negligence on the part of the public authority in dealing with RTI cases. He is required to initiate necessary administrative steps to ensure that all RTI online profiles across every circle and division under his department are thoroughly reviewed and updated with the details of current, active officers at the earliest. Furthermore, strict institutional mechanisms must be put in place to ensure that future transfers, retirements, or reassignments of personnel are automatically updated on the RTI portal without delay, thereby preventing any further denial of information to the public. In order to ensure effective implementation of the RTI Act and streamline the processing of information requests, **Pu Ngursailova Sailo, Engineer-in-Chief, P&E should designate a State Public Information Officer (SPIO) specifically for the Aizawl Power Circle at the earliest.**
4. In exercising the quasi-judicial powers vested in the office, the FAA must provide a personal hearing to both the appellant and the respondent for every First Appeal received. In accordance with Rule 7(5)(a) of the Mizoram RTI Rules, 2010, the FAA is required to provide at least seven (7) clear days' notice before the fixed hearing date. All subsequent orders must be pronounced in open court, reduced to writing, and duly authenticated. The Engineer-in-Chief, P&E should issue strict instructions to all FAAs designated under P&E to ensure absolute compliance with these statutory provisions for all future appeals.

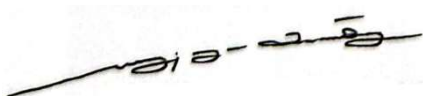
DECISION: -

In view of the above, the Commission hereby directs that **Pu Lalrinmawia, Superintending Engineer, Aizawl Power Circle, P&E** shall provide the information, free of cost, to the appellant not later than **23.06.2026 (Tuesday)** and submit compliance report to the Commission along with copies of information given to the appellant.

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



(JOHN NEIHLAIA)
State Chief Information Commissioner
Mizoram Information Commission



(MANGJANGAM TOUTHANG)
State Information Commissioner
Mizoram Information Commission



(DR. LALZIRMAWIA CHHANGTE)
State Information Commissioner
Mizoram Information Commission