

No. C. 52/2010-MSIC
MIZORAM INFORMATION COMMISSION
KHATLA : AIZAWL

Vanlalrema Vantawl,
Editor,
Zalen Weekly,
B-38, Mission Vengthlang,
Aizawl, Mizoram.

Complainant

Vrs

SPIO & Jt Director (Hqrs),
Directorate of Transport,
Mizoram, Aizawl.

Respondent.

ORDER
(16.7.2010)

A complaint was submitted by Pu Vanlalrema Vantawl, Editor, Zalen Weekly, B-38, Mission Venglai, Aizawl, Mizoram against the SPIO & Joint Director (Hqrs), Directorate of Transport, Mizoram, for refusal to receive the application for information under the RTI Act, 2005. A complaint case was registered under No. C. 52/2010-MSIC.

The brief fact of the case is that the complainant requested the SPIO & Joint Director (Hqrs), Directorate of Transport, Mizoram, to give certain information relating, mostly, to operation and inspection of private buses. However, as the application was refused by the SPIO, the complainant lodged a complaint with the Information Commission to get the required information.

The SPIO was served with a Show Cause Notice on 21.6.2010 with the direction to submit written explanation within 7 days as to why action will not be taken against him for his rejection to receive the application under the RTI Act. In reply to the Show Cause Notice, the SPIO stated on 23.6.2010 that the application was received but as the required information come under the purview of the SPIO & DDT (OP), the applicant was directed to approach the SPIO & DDT (OP), and the applicant left with his application. The SPIO & DDT (OP) was required to submit copy of Guidelines for Private Bus Operators on urgent basis. The SPIO & DDT (OP), however, forwarded the letter to the SPIO & Jt Director (MV) on 2.7.2010 to submit the information called for to the Commission as the subject was outside the purview of the Operation Wing of the Transport Department. As the required information was neither given by the SPIO & Jt Director (MV), the Director of Transport was required to fix responsibility on a particular SPIO with the instruction to submit copy of the Guidelines for Private Bus Operators by 3 p.m. on 15.7.2010 positively. In compliance, the SPIO & Jt Director (MV) submitted extracts of certain provisions under MV Act and Rules, stating that there is no specific Guidelines for Private Bus Operators.

The Information Commission viewed with seriousness the evasive manner in which the responsibility of giving the required information to the Commission has been passed on from SPIO to SPIO without any effort to fulfil the request. The Commission also noted with surprise the inaction and insensitiveness of the Transport Department to the need of the public. While this Commission cannot order Transport

Authority to frame Guidelines for MST or Private Bus Operators, improvement of Bus services as a whole is really called for. The Director, Transport Department, may, therefore, like to initiate necessary action in this respect.

In the light of the above, the SPIO & Jt. Director (MV), Transport Department, is directed to give certified copies of extracts of relevant provisions under the MV Act and Rules to the complainant-applicant within 7 days from receipt of this order under intimation to the Commission.

Ordered accordingly.



K. TLANTHANGA)
Information Commissioner