

No C. 45/2009-MSIC
MIZORAM INFORMATION COMMISSION
KHATLA : AIZAWL

T. Lalhmachhuana
Editor, Dingdi Daily Newsppaer,
Aizawl, Mizoram.

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Complainant

Vrs

SPIO & DFO,
Aizawl Forest Division,
Aizawl, Mizoram.

Respondent

ORDER
(12.1.2010)

A complaint was submitted by T. Lalhmachhuana, Editor, Dingdi Daily Newspaper, Aizawl, against the SPIO of the Aizawl Forest Division, Aizawl, for not giving the information requested for under RTI Act, 2006. A complaint case was registered under No. C. 45/2009-MSIC.

The short fact of the case is that the complainant requested the SPIO of the Environment and Forests Department, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl, to given certain information on Integrated Development of Forest Villages under Aizawl Forest Division. However, as the required information was not given by the SPIO, the complainant lodged a complaint with the Information Commission to get the required information.

The SPIO was noticed to appear before the Commission on 7.1.2010 with all relevant documents in original. The SPIO appeared in person as also the complainant, and both parties were heard. In the course of hearing, the SPIO informed the Commission that the original application was submitted to the SPIO of the Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and that the same was forwarded to him and was received by him on 29.10.2009. The matter was taken up urgently but the dealing clerk had family problems relating to health of her mother who finally expired and she, herself, also became ill and applied for earned leave that has resulted in some delay, but efforts were made to give the required information. The information was given on 4.12.2009 on which date the complainant had drafted his complaint already. The SPIO conceded that there was minor delay owing to such unforeseen circumstances. The complainant admitted that he has been given the required information after he submitted his complaint. The information provided to the complainant was seen by the Commission and it was noticed that it is an uncertified copy of information.

Under the circumstances, the Commission opines that the minor delay in giving the information to the complainant was due to the unforeseen problems as enumerated above and cannot be regarded as unreasonable and intentional and does not attract penalty on the SPIO. The SPIO, however, is directed to furnish certified and authenticated copy of the required information to the complainant within a period of 7 days from the date of receipt of this order under intimation to the Commission.

Ordered accordingly.


(K.TLANTHANGA)
Information Commissioner




(ROBERT HRANGDAWLA)
Chief Information Commissioner