

**BEFORE THE ORISSA INFORMATION COMMISSION
BHUBANESWAR**

Present: Shri Jagadananda, SIC

Date: 6th January, 2009

Complaint Case No. 131/2008



Biswajit Mohanty,
C/o-B.Mohanty and Co.,
Chartered Accountants,
Link Road,
Cuttackdistrict-753012Complainant

-Vrs-

Public Information Officer,
Balangir Collectorate,Balangir,
Balangir district.....Opposite Party

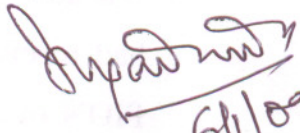
Decision

1. Complainant Biswajit Mohanty is absent. His absence is condoned under Rule 9 (2) of the Orissa Information Commission (Appeal Procedure) Rules, 2006. Banamali Mahanta, PIO-cum- Deputy Collector, Deogarh Collectorate is present. Heard. Perused the case record. This case has arisen out of complaint petition dated 24/01/08 and last heard on 1/12/08.
2. The Complainant had sought for information in his form A application dated 11/10/07 from the PIO, office of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Government of Orissa, Secretariat, Bhubaneswar pertaining to the Forest Lands in Orissa.
3. The case was last heard on 11/12/08 when the PIO had mentioned that he had received the application on 11/10/07 and transferred the same to the PIO's of all Collectors' of Orissa. The same was transferred to the PIO, office of the D.F.O., Deogarh district dated 26/10/07. The required information had been furnished to the Complainant on 12/12/07.

4. The Complainant mentioned that he had received incomplete information in respect of item no.1 and 2 only on 21/12/07 and as regards item no. 3 and 4 he has not received any response.. He had further mentioned that the respondent had willfully delayed the disclosure of information and hence is liable for penalties under Section 20 (1) of the RTI Act, 2005.
5. The State Commission had directed the PIO to provide the balance information to the Complainant within fortnight without demanding any cost therefor.
6. In obedience to the said orders of the State Commission, the PIO stated that he had furnished the balance information to the Complainant , free of cost vide letter no.7680 dated 19/12/08.
7. The details of chronological date chart submitted by the PIO is perused. The State Commission observe that the delay is mainly due to public holidays at intermittent intervals. The PIO stated that he had no malafide intention in withholding the information from the Complainant.
8. Presumably the Complainant is absent to-day since he has received all the information. In view of the above, the PIO is exonerated and the case is disposed of and closed.

Pronounced in open proceedings.

Given under the hand and seal of the State Commission, this 6th day of January, 2009.


6/1/09
SIC