

**BEFORE THE ORISSA INFORMATION COMMISSION
BHUBANESWAR**



**Present: Hon'ble Shri D.N.Padhi, SCIC
and
Shri Jagadananda, SIC**

Date: 10th April, 2009

Complaint Case No. 725 /2007

Himansu Ranjan Mohanty
At/PO-Taratua,
Via-Khurda,
Khurda district.....Complainant

-Vrs-

Public Information Officer,
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Orissa, Bhubaneswar
Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharapur,
Bhubaneswar-751023.....Opposite Party

Decision

1. Complainant Himansu Ranjan Mohanty is absent. The same is condoned under Rule 9 (2) of the Orissa Information Commission (Appeal Procedure) Rules, 2006. Prasanna Kumar Panda, ex-CCF (Admn), Satrugna Giri, Senior Assistant, Rabinarayan Rath, Section Officer, office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Orissa, Bhubaneswar (PCCF for short) are present. PIO had sought leave of absence vide letter no.5362 dated 07/04/09 on personal grounds. The same was accepted. Heard. Perused the case record. This case arises

out of a complaint petition dated 11/06/07 and heard by the State Commission earlier on 26/06/08, 26/08/08 and 13/03/09.

2. The Complainant had sought information in form A application dated 14/03/07 from the PIO, office of the PCCF on the action taken on the representation by most of the Village Forest Workers (VFW for short) of the State and copy of the list of name of VFWs and Forest Divisions who have submitted representations to the PCCF, Orissa from 10/01/07 to 14/03/07. The copy of action taken report of the PCCF, Orissa bearing letter no.15587/ F & E dated 19/10/04 and the required information had been supplied to the Complainant on 05/06/07.
3. P.K.Parida stated that the information sought by the Complainant related to policy decisions of the Government. The Complainant had requested the authorities of the Government of Orissa to treat more than 500 VFWs as Foresters. The Government of Orissa had reorganized the Forest Department during 2003 abolishing the Social Forestry Project and all ranks starting from Forest Guard to Director were absorbed as such in the Forest Department excepting more than 500 VFWs who worked as such even after the reorganization. In the meanwhile the Forest and Environment Department, Government of Orissa, Secretariat, Bhubaneswar had designated and equated almost all of the 500 VFWs of erstwhile Social Forestry Projects of Forest Departments as Foresters. In other words, the grievances of all the 500 VFWs represented by the Complainant had been fulfilled and their grievances have been redressed. At the time of the RTI application the Government policy was yet to be taken and hence the


the request did not fall within the definition of information under Section 2 (f) of the RTI Act,2009.

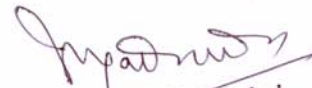
4. In view of the above position, the State Commission find no malafides with the opposite parties and exonerated them. Hence the case disposed of and closed with no orders on penalty. Inform the Complainant.

Pronounced in open proceedings

Given under the hand and seal of the State Commission, this 10th day of April, 2009.




SCIC
10.4.09


SIC 10/4/09