

**केन्द्रीय सूचना आयोग**  
Central Information Commission  
**बाबागंगनाथमार्ग, मुनिरका**  
Baba Gangnath Marg, Munirka  
**नई दिल्ली, New Delhi-110067**

शिकायत संख्या / Complaint Nos. **CIC/MOHFW/C/2021/615763**  
**CIC/MOHFW/C/2021/615769**

Shri Aniket Gaurav

...शिकायतकर्ता/Complainant

VERSUS/बनाम

PIO, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Through: Sh. Satyendra Singh – US/CPIO

...प्रतिवादीगण/Respondent

Date of Hearing : 17.05.2021

Date of Decision : 17.05.2021

**Chief Information Commissioner : Shri Y. K. Sinha**

**Relevant facts emerging from appeal:**

***Note: Both the Complaints listed above have been preferred by the same Complainant. Hence, the matters are taken up given the current situation and clubbed together for convenience of adjudication for the sake of brevity and avoidance of multiple proceedings.***

| Case No.      | RTI Filed on | CPIO reply | First appeal | FAO | Complaint received on |
|---------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-----|-----------------------|
| <b>615763</b> | 15.04.2021   | 20.04.2021 | ---          | --- | 30.04.2019            |
| <b>615769</b> | 18.04.2021   | 23.04.2021 | ---          | --- | 30.04.2019            |

**Information sought and background of the case:**

**(1) CIC/MOHFW/C/2021/615763**

The Complainant filed an RTI application dated 15.04.2021 seeking information on whether Ministries/Departments under the Government of India are maintaining the records about the number of people who tested positive for the corona virus even though they have already received one or both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine. He sought information on the the following points:

“...1) the number of people who tested positive after the first dose of the vaccine, till date.

2) the number of people who tested positive even after the second dose of the vaccine, till date.

- 3) Out of the total number of people who tested positive after the first dose of the vaccine, till date,  
a) the number of people who got infected but had a mild or moderate form of the disease.  
b) the number of people who got infected but had a severe form of the disease.
- 4) Out of the total number of people who tested positive after the second dose of the vaccine, till date,  
a) the number of people who got infected but had a mild or moderate form of the disease.  
b) the number of people who got infected but had a severe form of the disease.

The CPIO informed the Appellant on 20.04.2021 that "Health" being a 'State' subject, Covid-19 Vaccination Administration Cell (CVAC), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India does not have such specific data. The Complainant was advised to visit the Ministry's website or "Aarogyasetu App" or "mygov.in/ /COVID-19" or "MyGov App" to obtain the statistical data sought by him.

Aggrieved and dissatisfied with the reply, the Complainant approached the Commission with the instant Complaint, pointing out that some information had been furnished in the public domain, which was faulty, incorrect and incomplete.

**Facts emerging during the course of hearing:**

Written submission dated 14.05.2021 has been received from PIO/US-Sh. Satyendra Singh - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stating that, as Under Secretary he has been assigned the work of COVID-19 Vaccination Administration Cell and is the CPIO for the specific Cell, not the whole Ministry. He stated that his work involves sanction of budget for the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines(s), viz. COVISHIELD and COVAXIN and furnishing replies to the High Court(s)/PMO/VIP reference regarding the vaccination policy, after approval of the higher authorities. But he does not deal with information sought by the Complainant and had therefore informed him accordingly. In so far as the news item referred by the Complainant about the statistical data which had been disclosed before the media, the Respondent replied that the press briefing was done by officials at the highest level of the Ministry, who have access to much more information than held by the PIO, CVAC.

A copy of press briefing of the Health Ministry dated 21.04.2021 has also been submitted by the Respondent, which indicates the disclosure of relevant data.

A copy of the Respondent's submission dated 14.05.2021, discussed hereinabove had been marked to the Complainant.

**(2) CIC/MOHFW /C/2019/515769**

The Complainant filed an RTI application dated 18.04.2021 seeking the following information:

- (1) what are firm orders for vaccine doses placed on different vaccine producers and accepted for delivery over the next six months and*

*(2) how this expected supply will be distributed across different states.*

The CPIO informed the Appellant on 23.04.2021 with respect to point 1 that no such specific information is available. With respect to point 2, the Appellant was informed that it does not come under the definition of information as per RTI Act, 2005.

Aggrieved and dissatisfied with the reply, the Complainant approached the Commission with the instant Complaint.

**Facts emerging during the course of hearing:**

Written submission dated 14.05.2021 has been received from PIO/US-Sh. Satyendra Singh - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stating that while the first query was not clear, the second query raised by the Complainant related to a future course of action, information regarding which does not exist on record. However, on receipt of the complaint, the purport of query no.1 has become clear and hence the Respondent furnished available information, through the written submission, stating as follows:

*“..Initially, the Govt. of India through PM Cares Fund procured the COVID-19 vaccines COVISHIELD manufactured by M/s Serum Institute of India (procured 5.6 crores doses) at the unit cost of Rs. 210/- including taxes (Rs. 200+5% GST) and COVAXIN manufactured by M/s Bharat Biotech International Limited (procured 1.0 crores doses) at the unit cost of Rs. 309.75/- including taxes (Rs. 295 + 5% GST).*

*The Union Budget 2021-22 provides for Rs. 35,000 crore for COVID-19 Vaccination. At present Government of India through Union Budget has procured the COVID-19 vaccines (COVISHIELD 10 crores doses and COVAXIN 2 crores doses) at the unit cost of Rs. 157.50 including taxes (Rs. 150+5% GST). Further, Govt. of India through Union Budget is procuring the COVID-19 vaccines (COVISHIELD 11 crores doses and COVAXIN 5.5 crores doses) at the unit cost of Rs. 157.50 including taxes (Rs. 150+5% GST).*

*The procurement and vaccination of COVID-19 vaccine is ongoing process..”*

In order to ensure social distancing and prevent the spread of the pandemic, COVID-19, hearing through audio conference was scheduled after giving prior notice to both the parties. Both parties are heard through audio conference. The Complainant claimed that it is important that accurate and specific information is available in larger public interest, particularly in the current scenario and hence he had raised the above queries. The Complainant admitted that he has received the emails dated 14.05.2021 from the Respondent.

Respondent contended that information about distribution of vaccines among different States, number of persons already vaccinated, cost of vaccines etc. are already being updated on the website alongwith various notifications from time to time, to create awareness among the citizens. The Respondent further stated that despite the overwhelming nature of the pandemic which has adversely affected a large number of their own officials as well, all possible steps are being taken to not only ensure uninterrupted operations but also furnish as much information as

possible in order to to serve larger public interest. In the aforementioned two cases also all efforts have been made to provide information from the existing records, in terms of the provisions of the RTI Act.

**Decision:**

On examination of the facts of the aforementioned cases, it is apparent that the Respondent has acted within the precincts of the RTI Act and disseminated the information held by them. There is no doubt that substantial information, which serves the larger public interest is already available in the public domain, i.e. the website of the Ministry and in view of the above, there remains no reason to initiate proceedings under Section 18 of the RTI Act.

However, before concluding the decision at hand, the Commission wishes to advise the Respondent to ensure that maximum information which serves larger public interest, is proactively disclosed, to enhance transparency and dissemination of correct information. This will also obviate the need for filing of RTI cases by citizens on matters of such vital importance.

In the light of the above discussion, the Commission is of the considered opinion that no further action is deemed necessary in these cases.

The cases are disposed off accordingly.

**Y. K. Sinha**(वाई. के. सिन्हा)  
Chief Information Commissioner(मुख्य सूचना आयुक्त)

Authenticated true copy  
(अभिलिखित सत्यता प्रमाणित)

S. K. Chitkara (एम. के. चिटकारा)  
Dy. Registrar (उप-पंजीयक)/011-26180514