

CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION
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File No. CIC/BS/A/2014/001442/7853

15 June 2015

Relevant Facts emerging from the Appeal:

Appellant : Mr. Subhash Chandra Agrawal
1775 Kucha Lattushah
Dariba, Chandni Chowk,
Delhi - 110006

Respondent : CPIO & Dy. Director General (PAF)
Department of Posts
PA Wing
Dak Bhawan, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi – 110001

CPIO & Director Accounts
Department of Posts
Dak Bhawan, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi – 110001

CPIO & Section Officer (PO)
Department of Posts
Dak Bhawan, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi – 110001

RTI application filed on : 11/03/2014
PIO replied on : 24/03/2014, 02/05/2014 & 26/05/2014
First appeal filed on : 06/05/2014
First Appellate Authority order : No Order
Second Appeal dated : 23/06/2014

Information sought:

The applicant has sought the following information:-

1. Complete information together with related correspondence/documents/file notings etc on action taken on each aspect of submission 'Too much advance printing of postal-orders' (DPOST/E/2014/00929) dated 11/03/2014 and 'Postal tariffs and service tax' (DPOST/E/2013/00903) dated 19/03/2013 routed to postal-department through Public-Grievance-Portal either by postal department, and/or by public authorities where these submissions might have been forwarded.
2. Respective dates when postal-orders in respective denomination were last printed mentioning also print quality of postal orders in each denomination when printed last.
3. Average number of postal-orders on all India basis sold year-wise in last ten years in each of the denominations; Information is required in consolidated form rather than from individual postal-zones or post offices.

4. Date on which commission-amount for postal orders was last revised.
5. Have postal-orders been printed after commission on postal-orders was last revised?
6. If yes, complete information together with all related correspondence//file notings/documents etc on action taken against concerned ones for not revising commission-amount printed on postal orders.
7. Is it true that postal orders are handled through clearing operations?
8. Is it true that multi-city clearing has been operational in respect of clearing of instruments like bank-cheques and postal orders?
9. Date on which multi-city clearing became operational in respect of clearing of instruments like bank-cheques and postal orders?
10. Complete information together with all related correspondence/file noting/documents etc on steps taken to make postal orders payable at par at all post-offices eliminating need to write name payable post office.
11. Complete information together with all related correspondence/file noting/documents etc on steps taken to change denominations of postal orders, if any
12. Complete information together with all related correspondence/file noting/documents etc on steps taken to re-design postal orders also to incorporate necessary changes like printing 'payable at par at all post-offices', and print prevailing commission-amount rather than old commission –amounts on postal orders.
13. Is service-tax levied on commission charged on postal-orders like is levied on several other postal services (eg. Speed posts) and banking service.
14. Complete information on postal-service on which service-tax is levied (eg. Speed post) providing also all related file notings/documents/correspondence etc on levying service-tax only on some selected postal-services (eg. Speed Post).
15. Complete information on postal-services on which service-tax is not levied, providing also all related file notings/documents/correspondence etc on keeping such postal-services exempted from service tax
16. Complete information together with all related file notings/documents/correspondence etc on rationalizing foreign mail-tariffs for equal tariff-rise for every equal rise in slab-weight making air-mail and surface/sea-mail tariff independently fixed rather than imposing air-surcharge on irrational surface/sea-mail tariffs providing file-notings on calculating foreign-mail tariffs revised last.
17. Any other related information.
18. File notings on movements of RTI Application

Grounds for the Second Appeal:

The CPIO has not provided the desired information.

Relevant Facts emerging during Hearing:

The following were present

Appellant: Mr. Subhash Chandra Agrawal

Respondent: Mr. S Sekar CPIO, Mr. Raj Kumar CPIO & Mr. Kamal Singh

The appellant stated that he has given certain suggestions and grievances to the postal department and has also posted them several times on www.pgportal.gov.in and he wants the file notings regarding processing of his submissions. He further stated that IPO of Rs.10/- show 50 paise commission and likewise whereas the department has been charging Rs.1/- since 1999 when they were last revised. He added that service tax is levied on select postal services and not on **all** postal services and he want to know the reasons. He pointed out that action is taken by the department only when he files an RTI application and not on grievances routed to them through

the grievance portal thus unnecessarily burdening the applicant. The CPIO stated that he will supply the file notings relating to the processing of the appellant's grievance/suggestions and if no action has been taken on certain suggestions file notings will be provided after processing the same. As regards service tax the CPIO explained these are levied on value added services as per the directions received from the Ministry of Finance. The appellant suggested that the respondent should take up with the Ministry of Finance to rationalize and have a uniform system for levying service tax alike on all postal services. The CPIO agreed.

The appellant stated that he has made an important suggestion regarding IPOs being made payable at par at all post offices in India, however, the postal department continues to print instruments with the name of the paying post office required to be filled in by the user. He added that actually all IPOs are payable at par at all post offices. He clarified that he has no objection to the levy of Rs 1/- as commission.

Decision notice:

The CPIO is directed to supply the file notings regarding processing of the appellant's grievance/suggestions. Further, as agreed by him he should supply the relevant file notings after processing the suggestions/grievances on which no action has been taken till date. He should also supply specimen of new IPOs ordered to be printed. The order should be complied within 30 days from the date of receipt.

The appellant has clarified that he does not object to the levy of Rs. 1/- as commission, however, he has suggested that IPO should be made 'payable at par' at all post offices without mentioning the name of the paying post office. The appellant's suggestion carries merit and the postal authorities should look into the same and send an appropriate response to him within 6 weeks.

The appeal is disposed of accordingly.

BASANT SETH
Information Commissioner

Authenticated true copy:

(R. L. Gupta)
Dy. Registrar/Designated Officer