

CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION

Club Building (Near Post Office)

Old JNU Campus, New Delhi - 110067

Tel: +91-11-26161796

Decision No. CIC/SG/A/2012/001159/19077

Appeal No. CIC/SG/A/2012/001159

Relevant Facts emerging from the Appeal:

Appellant : Mr. Harinder Dhingra
D4A/7 L F Phase 01
Gurgaon- 122002

Respondent Mr. A. C. Ojha
PIO & US (RTI)
Ministry of Environment & Forests
RTI Section, 902
Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex
Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

RTI application filled on : 23/12/2011
PIO replied : 14/02/2012
First appeal filed on : 17/02/2012
First Appellate Authority order : 19/03/2012
Second Appeal received on : 11/04/2012

The Appellant had sought information regarding his letter written on 7 September 2011 to Secretary, MoEF by speedpost recpt. No. EH307471166IN regarding alarming mishandling of RTI queries by the Ministry.

Sl.	Information Sought	Reply of the Public Information Officer (PIO)
1.	When was this letter received by the Ministry of Environment & Forests.	Date of receipt of letter in secy (E&F) office is 12.09.2011
2.	Kindly provide copy of notings of file in which this letter of undersigned was dealt with.	No separate noting was done.
3.	Fate of the letter as mentioned at para I).	Action has already been taken in another file viz.
4.	Kindly provide the date of arrival of this letter, date of disposal of the letter by every officer who dealt with it.	circular copy no. 6/1/2010- RC dt. 12.01.2012- two review, meeting have been taken under the chairmanship of AS (MFF) and secretary (E&F) on 21.11.2011 and 1.2.2012 respectively.
5.	Any other information which is related to this letter.	

Grounds for the First Appeal:

Unsatisfactory and incomplete reply from PIO.

Order of the First Appellate Authority (FAA):

“Shri Harinder Dhingra filed an RTI Application dated 23rd December, 2011, which was received in this Ministry on 1 Feb, 2012, seeking information in respect of a letter dated 7th September, 2011 which he had addressed to Secretary, MoEF regarding lack of seriousness in handling RTI matters in M0EF.

Vide his letter of even no. dated 14th Feb. 2012, the CPIO sent him the requisite information. Not satisfied with the reply of the CPIO, Shri Dhingra has filed an appeal dated 17th Feb, 2012, which was received on 27th Feb, 2012, before the First Appellate Authority.

CPIO is directed to provide to the Appellant a copy of the note dated 28/02/2012 from file no. 7-1/2011-RC (which has been placed in the current file at page no.20/corres.) vide which his letter dated 7th September was put up. With this the appeal stands disposed off.”

Grounds for the Second Appeal:

Unsatisfactory reply from PIO.

Relevant Facts emerging during Hearing:

The following were present

Appellant: Mr. Harinder Dhingra;

Respondent: Mr. A. C. Ojha, PIO & US (RTI);

The Respondent has provided certain information which shows that the appellant's representation has been treated as similar to another letter. And it has been stated that action has been taken against the other letter. It has been stated that the action has been taken vide another file of circular copy no. 6/1/2010-RC dated 12/01/2012. The Appellant states that in that case he should be given the file notings of that file.

The Respondent states that because of the RTI application of the Appellant improvements are being made in the delivery of information to appellants. The Commission appreciates this approach where RTI applicants and public authorities work together to make improvements in governance.

Decision:

The Appeal is allowed.

The PIO is directed to provide the file notings as directed above to the Appellant before 05 June 2012.

This decision is announced in open chamber.

Notice of this decision be given free of cost to the parties.

Any information in compliance with this Order will be provided free of cost as per Section 7(6) of RTI Act.

Shailesh Gandhi
Information Commissioner
24 May 2012

(In any correspondence on this decision, mention the complete decision number.)(SS)