

Central Information Commission

Raman Kumar vs Northern Railway Ferozpur on 27 April, 2021

Author: Amita Pandove

CIC/NRALF/A/2019/637609

Central Information Commission

Baba Gangnath Marg, Munirka
, New Delhi - 110067

/ Second Appeal No. CIC/NRALF/A/2019/637609

In the matter of:

Raman Kumar

VERSUS

... /Appellant

CPIO,
/Senior Divisional Material Manager,
Northern Railway, Office Of The
Divisional Railway Manager,
Divisional Office, Ferozpur, Punjab.

... /Respondent

Relevant dates emerging from the appeal:

RTI Application filed on	:	12.04.2018
CPIO replied on	:	Not on Record
First Appeal filed on	:	22.06.2018
First Appellate Authority order	:	Not on Record
Second Appeal Received on	:	04.04.2019
Date of Hearing	:	22.04.2021

The following were present:

Appellant: Shri Raman Kumar participated in the hearing on being contacted on his telephone.

Respondent: Shri Har Bans Singh, Nodal Officer and Sr. DMM and Shri Jai Bhagwan, DFM and APIO participated in the hearing on being contacted on his telephone.

ORDER

Information sought:

The Appellant filed an online RTI Application dated 12.04.2018 seeking information on the following three points:

"Sub: Provide copy of Bills of Registered Vendors/suppliers with Store Department, Northern Railway Firozpur.

Despite visiting A/cs office many times and meeting with the concerned authorities our bills for supplying of Goods in the Railways have been held up for the last about more than five months. Whereas, bills of other Vendors/Suppliers are being cleared immediately. Please provide us the copies of

1. Purchase Orders
2. Bills submitted by Vendors/Suppliers from 01/07/2017 to till date.
3. Specifying Date of AB No.. and CO7 of each bills passed by A/Cs duly certified by Sr. DFM/FZR.

The above information is required in connection with Vendors/Suppliers registered with Store Department in Divisional Office, Firozpur."

Having not received any information from the CPIO, the Appellant filed a First Appeal dated 22.06.2018, which has not been adjudicated by the First Appellate Authority.

Grounds for Second Appeal:

The Appellant filed a Second Appeal u/s 19 of the Act on the ground of non- receipt of information from the Respondent. He requested the Commission to direct the CPIO to provide complete information sought for.

Submissions made by Appellant and Respondent during Hearing: The Appellant stated that he has not received any information regarding the bills till date. He further stated that only the details of the purchase orders have been provided, which is not sufficient. He furthermore stated that the information CIC/NRALF/A/2019/637609 provided has not been certified by the Respondent. At the instance of the Commission to establish the larger public interest, he explained that he is one of the vendors and that he is not receiving any tenders from the Respondent. Hence, he wants to know the relevant information and requested the Commission to direct the Respondent to provide complete information as sought in the instant RTI Application.

Shri Har Bans Singh submitted that available information as permissible under the provisions of the RTI Act has been provided to the Appellant. He further submitted that total 4496 bills including 5 bills of R.K. Enterprises have been passed by the Respondent office from 01.07.2017 to present date. He furthermore submitted that as far as the copy of purchase order is concerned, the quantum of files is voluminous and that every purchase order has a separate file. Hence, photocopying the

relevant papers would disproportionately divert the resources of the Respondent public authority. Hence, the Appellant was asked to inspect the files.

Shri Jai Bhagwan submitted that the instant RTI Application has been forwarded by the Nodal RTI Officer on 13.01.2021 after a lapse of two year period and the same has been received by them on 12.04.2021. He furthermore submitted that on 16.04.2021, the Appellant has been categorically informed that no record has been maintained in the office of Sr. DFM, Northern Railway, Ferozpur Cantt. with regard to the information sought in the instant RTI Application.

Decision:

Upon perusal of the facts on record as well as on the basis of the proceedings during the hearing, the Commission observes that the information sought by the Appellant is voluminous and directing the Respondent to provide a copy of the same would attract Section 7(9) of the RTI Act. Moreover, the Appellant has not CIC/NRALF/A/2019/637609 convinced the Bench as to why relief in the instant matter should be provided to him. It is clear that the information sought by the Appellant is not in the larger public interest; instead, it is for his personal interest. The Commission cannot add additional stimulus to it. Hence, the Commission finds that the information provided by the Respondent, which is running around nearly 400 pages is more than sufficient. The Commission finds no further scope of intervention in the instant matter.

With the above observations, the instant Second Appeal is disposed of. Copy of the decision be provided free of cost to the parties.

The Appeal, hereby, stands disposed of.

Amita Pandove () Information Commissioner () / Date: 26.04.2021 Authenticated true copy () B. S. Kasana (. .) Dy. Registrar (-) 011-26105027 CIC/NRALF/A/2019/637609 Addresses of the parties:

1. The First Appellate Authority (FAA) ADRM, Northern Railway, Office Of The Divisional Railway Manager, Divisional Office, Railway Station Road, Cantonment Area, Ferozpur, Punjab -152001
2. The Central Public Information Officer, /Senior Divisional Material Manager, Northern Railway, Office Of The Divisional Railway Manager, Divisional Office, Railway Station Road, Cantonment Area, Ferozpur, Punjab 152001
3. Shri Raman Kumar