

BEFORE THE ORISSA INFORMATION COMMISSION
BHUBANESWAR



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

Date: 7th May, 2009

Complaint Case No.992 /2007

Padmanava Majhi,
At-Balikund,
PO-Haladikund-754043,
Via-Boipariguda,
Koraput district.....Complainant

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Public Information Officer,
Office of the Block Development Officer,
Baipariguda,
Koraput district.....Opposite Party

Decision


1. Complainant Padmanava Majhi is present. Penga Majhi,ex-APIO-cum-PEO. Ramgiri Gram Panchayat, Boipariguda Block, Koraput district is also present. Heard. Perused the case record. This case arises out of complaint petition dated 11/07/07 and heard by the State Commission earlier on 26/08/08.
2. Complainant had sought information in form A application dated 12/02/07 from the PIO, Boipariguda Block regarding NREGS. As the information related to Gupteswar Gram Panchayat, assistance of the Sarpanch of the said Gram Panchayat was sought. As stated by the PIO on 26/08/08, the information were handed over to the Complainant on 15/08/08.

3. Records reveal that the PIO had transferred the RTI application dated 12/02/07 belatedly on 11/05/07. Explaining the delay the PIO-cum-Gram Panchayat Extension Officer (GPEO) stated that he was unduly busy with the time bound Gram Panchayat elections and hence could not respond on time.
4. APIO stated that as the Complainant was not residing in the village therefore information could not be delivered to him in person as sought by him in his RTI application.
5. Complainant confirmed that he has been a migrant labour to the adjoining State of Andhra Pradesh and had been hospitalized there for a long period. He mentioned that he was usually absent for long periods from home. He received the information as soon as he returned to the village.
6. The State Commission coming to the conclusion that the delay in furnishing information was circumstantial and to some extent also contributed to by the Complainant, exonerated the PIO in the larger public interest. The case disposed of and closed with the said observations.

Pronounced in open proceedings

Given under the hand and seal of the State Commission, this 7th day of May, 2009.




SCIC
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