

**BEFORE THE ORISSA INFORMATION COMMISSION  
BHUBANESWAR**

**Present:- Prof. Radhamohan, SIC**

Dated: - 12th, December 2007

**Complaint Case No 543/2007**

Shri Kunja Bihari Patra,  
Vill-Barapurikia,  
PS-Daspalla,  
Nayagarh District.....Complainant

**-Vrs-**

Public Information Officer  
Office of the Range Officer, (Kendu Leaf),  
Daspalla,  
Nayagarh District.....Opposite Party



**Decision**


1. Complainant Shri Kunja Bihari Patra is absent. His absence is condoned u/R 9(2) of the Orissa Information Commission (Appeal Procedure) Rules, 2006. Shri Bijaya Kumar Mohapatra, Range Officer, Dasapalla (K.L. Range) District Nayagarh is present. He submits that Range Office does not have a PIO and hence he entered appearance but not as PIO. From the records it is seen that Shri Patra wanted to file an RTI application on 18.04.2007 before the PIO, Range Office Dasapalla (Kendu Leaf). But the Range Officer Shri Satyabrata Mohanty, bluntly refused to accept the application and used abusive language. Shri Mohapatra mentions that the Divisional

Office (KL), Phulbani is having a PIO and Range Office did not have PIO and hence his predecessor Shri Mohanty refused to accept the application.

2. From the above submission it is clear that the provision u/S. 5(2) of the RTI Act which provides that every unit should have at least one APIO has been violated.
3. The State Commission directs the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (K.L) Aranya Bhawan, Bhubaneswar and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Aranya Bhawan to appoint APIO in all Range Offices who will receive RTI application and forward that to the PIO of the Divisional Office within five days after receipt of such applications and report compliance to the State Commission through the Registrar by 03.01.2008. The State Commission further directs the DFO (KL), Phulbani to immediately put in position information disclosure mechanism in all range offices under his control and report compliance on or before 03.01.2008.
4. Subject to compliance the case is closed and disposed of.

**Pronounced**

Given under the hand and seal of the State Commission, this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 2007.

  
**SIC** 12.12.07

PS