

CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION
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Appeal No. CIC/BS/A/2016/000271
Appeal No. CIC/BS/A/2016/000270
Appeal No. CIC/BS/A/2016/000403

Appellant: Suresh Kumar,
S/o Shri Virbhan, E/137,
West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008.
(9958049487)

Respondent: Central Public Information Officer
Sr. Supdt., Deptt. of Posts,
O/o Sr. Supdt. of Post offices,
Central Division, Meghdoot Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001.

Date of Hearing: 25.04.2017

Dated of Decision: 25.04.2017

ORDER

Appeal No. CIC/BS/A/2016/000271
Appeal No. CIC/BS/A/2016/000403

Facts:

1. The appellant filed RTI application dated 24.03.2015 seeking information on 5 points regarding his complaint dated 12.03.2015 registered at serial no. 55 in the inward register of the postal deptt. viz. (i) Action taken on serial no. 55, (ii) Tentative date of action being taken, (iii) Reasons for delay in taking action, (iv) Timing of the Lok Adalat pertaining to serial no. 55 etc.

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2. The appellant filed RTI application dated 24.03.2015 seeking file notings and correspondences pertaining to file no. L-1/3-71/9-10 and L-1/3-88/14-15 along with the information about the speed post dated 18.12.2014 and the details of the account no. 95351 of Patel Nagar Post office.

3. The CPIO responded on 22.04.2015. The appellant filed first appeals dated 21.05.2015. The FAA responded on 06.07.2015. The appellant filed second appeals on 11.01.2016 and 05.02.2016 before the Commission on the ground that information should be provided to him.

Hearing:

4. Both the parties participated in the hearing in person. They agreed to hearing of these three cases together, as the subject matter is similar in nature.

5. The appellant stated that his father had made a fixed deposit of Rs.1,00,000/- with the Post office, Patel Nagar in the year 1995. After demise of his father, he made several representations to the postal officials from 2009 onwards in order to get the requisite information. He has been running from pillar to post to encash the fixed deposit made by his father. On 27.04.2009, the Assistant Postal Superintendent had given him in writing that there was no withdrawal of the deposited amount till the year 1997. Further, he stated that he is also having a receipt of the passbook entry done by the postal official. He also stated that he has not been provided either the register or the computer entries relating to the aforesaid fixed deposit.

6. The respondent stated that the appellant's claim does not stand good in the absence of any evidence or collateral proof that the account was not closed and the money is still in the Post Office. In the absence of substantial proof by way of passbook relating to fixed deposit, he expressed his inability to presume that the account is live.

7. The respondent further stated that it is a 21 years very old case and they are unable to trace the related file as the record, being beyond the statutory retention period of 3 years, has been weeded out. Till the year 1995, they used to keep manual records of such fixed deposits, wherein one set was sent to the Head Post Office, Delhi (Gol Dak-Khana) and the other one was retained with the concerned Post Office. They switched to computerization in the year 2000 and at that time the account was not live as inferred by the fact that no entry was made in database of this fixed deposit as a live account. The CBS system

was introduced in the year 2015 and even there the record of his father's fixed deposit account was not available.

8. He also stated that if the appellant produces the passbook relating to the fixed deposit of his father, they will make payment of the total deposited amount.

Discussion/ observation:

9. The respondent should provide to the appellant (i) Proof of destruction of the fixed deposit file in both the concerned post office (Patel Nagar) and the head post office (Gol Dak-khana), (ii) Notesheets of the processing in file of the issue raised by him and (iii) A revised reply after checking the records. The aforesaid information should be provided to the appellant, free of cost, within 15 days from the date of receipt of this order.

Decision:

10. The respondent is directed to take action as per para 9 above.

11. The respondent is advised to re-examine the grievance of the appellant and see if anything afresh can be done.

The appeals are disposed of. Copy of the order be given to the parties free of cost.

(Radha Krishna Mathur)
Chief Information Commissioner

Authenticated true copy

(S.C. Sharma)
Dy. Registrar