

**CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, August Kranti Bhawan,  
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066

**Decision No. CIC/YA/A/2014/000379/SB**

**Dated 19.09.2016**

**Appellant** : Shri Ram Singh,  
Allahabad Bank,  
Yamunanagar,  
Distt. Yamunanagar, Haryana-135001.

**Respondent** : Central Public Information Officer,  
Central Information Commission,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, B-Wing, August Kranti Bhawan,  
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110 066.

**Date of Hearing** : 19.09.2016

**Relevant dates emerging from the appeal:**

RTI application filed on : 16.07.2013

CPIO's reply : 23.07.2013

First appeal filed on : 14.08.2013

FAA's order : 20.09.2013

Second Appeal filed on : 20.11.2013

**ORDER**

1. Shri Ram Singh filed an application dated 16.07.2013 under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act) before the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO), Central Information Commission (CIC) seeking information on fourteen points regarding details of hearing and disposal of cases along with the names of certain CPIOs.

2. The appellant filed a second appeal dated 20.11.2013 before the Commission on the grounds that he is not satisfied with the information provided to him by the CPIO as well as the First Appellant Authority (FAA). He further submitted that he should be compensated with Rs.5.00 crore and the nodal CPIO be imposed penalty of Rs.25,000/- under the provisions of RTI Act.

**Hearing:**

3. The appellant Shri Ram Singh attended the hearing through video conferencing. The respondent Shri A.K. Sharma, CPIO, was present in person.

4. The appellant submitted that information provided in response to point nos. 7 to 13 of the RTI application is not satisfactory. The appellant further submitted that the respondent has asked him to access the CIC's website for the information. However, the same cannot be construed as furnishing of information under the RTI Act.

5. The respondent submitted that point wise information as per available records has been provided to the appellant vide letter dated 23.07.2013. The respondent in response to appellant's grievance on point nos. 7 to 13 of the RTI application, submitted that information sought is available on the website of the CIC and since the same is available in public domain, the CPIO is not obliged to provide the same to the appellant under the RTI Act. The respondent in order to substantiate the same, relied on the case of *Shri K. Lall v. M K Bagri, Assistant Registrar of Companies & CPIO*, Appeal No. CIC/AT/A/2007/00112 dated 12.04.2007, wherein, a Coordinate Bench of the Commission has held as under:

*".....it would mean that once certain information is placed in public domain accessible to the citizens either freely or on payment of a predetermined*

*price, that information cannot be said to be 'held' or 'under the control' of the public authority and thus would cease to be an 'information' accessible under the RTI Act."*

**Decision:**

6. The Commission, after hearing both the parties and perusing the records, observes that that appellant was informed that the information sought in point nos. 7 to 13 of the RTI application is available on the website of the Commission. The RTI Act mandates every public authority to provide as much information to the public including through internet so that the public have minimum resort to the use of the RTI Act to obtain information. Further, once information has been provided in public domain and on website then the information is no longer held by or under the control of any public authority and hence, is no longer accessible as 'right to information'. Thus, the action of the CPIO is consonance with the RTI Act. The Commission, further observes that under the RTI Act only information available on records has to be provided, which has already been furnished to the appellant by the respondent. Hence, no further action is required in the matter.

7. With the above observations, the appeal is disposed of.

8. Copy of decision be given free of cost to the parties.

**(Sudhir Bhargava)**  
**Information Commissioner**

**Authenticated true copy**

**(V.K. Sharma)**  
**Designated Officer**