

**CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION**

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

**Decision No. CIC/SB/A/2015/000483**

**Dated 30.11.2016**

**Appellant** : Shri S.P. Singh,  
House No. 226,  
Sector-15-A,  
NOIDA-201301.

**Respondent** : Central Public Information Officer,  
O/o the Commissioner of Central  
Excise, Customs & Service Tax,  
Visakhapatnam Commissionerate,  
Central Excise Building,  
Port Area, Visakhapatnam-530 035.

**Date of Hearing** : 30.11.2016

**Relevant dates emerging from the appeal:**

RTI application filed on : 30.06.2015

CPIO's reply : 14.08.2015/20.08.2015/24.08.2015  
02.09.2015 (transfer)/14.10.2015  
19.10.2015

First appeal filed on : 06.09.2015

FAA's order : 08.10.2015

Second appeal filed on : 01.11.2015

**ORDER**

1. Shri S.P. Singh filed an application dated 30.06.2015 under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act) before the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO), O/o Chairman Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC) seeking information on seven points pertaining to a raid conducted by the

---

Commissionerate of Central Excise & Customs, Visakhapatnam in the premises of M/sSaritha Steels Ltd. and M/sSaritha Synthetics and Industries Ltd. during the year 2003-04, including (i) the present status of the case and (ii) whether it is a fact that this investigation was in relation to bogus/fraud invoices issued by the said companies.

**2.** Shri S.P. Singh filed a second appeal dated 01.11.2015 before the Commission on the grounds that he has not been provided any information regarding his specific query as to whether the premises of M/S Saritha Steels Ltd. and M/S Saritha Synthetics were raided during the year 2003-04 and though all the concerned departments are under the Department of Revenue, the Department of Revenue sent letters all around to confuse the issue. The appellant requested the Commission to pass an order for providing the information sought by him in his RTI application.

**Hearing:**

**3.** The appellant Shri S.P. Singh was present in person. The respondent Shri Dayal Singh, Superintendent, O/o the Commissioner of Central Excise, Customs & Service Tax, Visakhapatnam was present through video conferencing.

**4.** The appellant submitted that though his RTI application had been transferred under Section 6(3) of the RTI Act to five different CPIOs, complete and correct information has not been provided to him. The appellant further submitted that he has not received any information relating to his specific query as to whether or not raids were conducted on the premises of M/sSaritha Steels Ltd. and M/sSaritha Synthetics and Industries Ltd. during the year 2003-04 and if so, what is the present status of the case.

**5.** The respondent submitted that the information sought by the appellant in his RTI application is not available. Hence, the respondent was unable to

provide the information/present status of the specific query of the appellant as to whether or not raids were conducted on the premises of M/S Saritha Steels Ltd. and M/S Saritha Synthetics during the year 2003-04.

**Decision:**

6. The Commission, after hearing the submissions of both the parties and perusing the records, does not find reasonable the contention of the respondent that no information pertaining to M/s Saritha Steels Ltd. and M/s Saritha Synthetics and Industries Ltd. is available with the respondent as the FAA himself has observed in his order dated 08.10.2015 that several cases are pending against M/s Saritha Synthetics and Industries Ltd. The Commission, therefore, observes that the records pertaining to action taken against the above-mentioned companies ought to be available with the respondent. In view of this, the Commission directs the respondent to provide the information sought by the appellant within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this decision.

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

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

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

**Authenticated true copy**

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