

CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION
2nd Floor, 'B' Wing, August Kranti Bhawan
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066
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Appeal No.CIC/KY/A/2016/001215

Appellant: Sanjay Khanna,
Plot No. 196, Sector-5,
Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-210010.

Respondent: Central Public Information Officer
M/o External Affairs, Passport Office,
CGO Building-I, Kamla Nehru Nagar,
Ghaziabad, U.P.

Date of Hearing: 08.03.2017

Date of Decision: 08.03.2017

ORDER

Facts:

1. The appellant filed RTI application dated 26.04.2016 seeking information on eight points regarding passport application with regard to (i) File Closure Notification for passport application no. GZ1078591654815 and being summoned by RPO vide letter dated 05.04.2016, (ii) Meeting with the applicant on 13.04.2016, (iii) Whether file was closed before sending of letter Ref. No. FCI/305944602/16 dated 05.04.2016, etc.

2. The CPIO responded on 09.05.2016. The appellant filed first appeal dated 09.06.2016 before the first appellate authority (FAA). The FAA responded on 16.06.2016. The appellant filed second appeal to the Commission on 20.07.2016 on the ground that information should be provided to him.

Hearing:

3. The appellant did not participate in the hearing. The respondent participated in the hearing through counsel in person.

4. The respondent stated that a point wise reply has been given to the appellant.

5. The respondent further stated that earlier RPO was the CPIO and Chief Passport Officer was the 1st Appellate Authority. Thereafter, there was a restructuring in the RTI section and RPOs/POs became 1st appellate authority and the Deputy P.O. was designated as CPIO. First appeal was, therefore, transferred to RPO, not realizing that RPO had disposed the RTI application. He, therefore, cannot become his own appellate authority.

Discussion/ observation:

6. No malafide is involved on the part of the respondents. No penalty needs to be imposed. However, CPO, MEA shall issue instructions for handling first appeal in old cases at CPO level.

Decision:

7. The respondent is directed to take action as per para 6 above within a period of 15 days from the date of receipt of this order.

The appeal is 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