

**Central Information Commission, New Delhi**  
**File No. CIC/SH/A/2016/000058**  
**Right to Information Act-2005-Under Section (19)**

**Date of hearing** : 8th February 2017

**Date of decision** : 8th February 2017

**Name of the Appellant** : SHRI NITIN KUMAR TAYAL  
SCO-1-3, B, SWAMI VIVEKANAND  
VRIDHASHARM, MARKET, B- BLOCK,  
MODEL TOWN EXTENSION,  
LUDHIANA, PUNJAB-141002

**Name of the Public Authority/Respondent** : CENTRAL PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER,  
INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK  
REGIONAL OFFICE, FOUNTAIN  
CHOWK, CIVIL LINES,  
LUDHIANA,PUNJAB- 141001

**RTI Application filed on** : 05/06/2015

**CPIO replied on** : 08/07/2015

**First Appeal filed on** : 17/07/2015

**First Appellate Authority order on** : —

**2<sup>nd</sup> Appeal received on** : 10/12/2015

The Appellant was not present.

On behalf of the Respondents, Shri Sanjay Kumar Jha, Chief Manager was present at the NIC Studio, Ludhiana.

**Information Commissioner** : Shri Sharat Sabharwal

**Information sought**

Certified copies of the relevant sections of the RTI Act 2005 stating that “there was no need of furnishing separate replies for the same information request, which was sought for from different offices of the same organisation” as submitted by the Respondents vide letter dated 1.6.2015.

### **The CPIO reply**

The CPIO stated that only such information could be supplied as already existed and was held by the Public authority. The CPIO was not required to create information or solve problems raised by the Appellant.

### **Grounds of the First Appeal**

Not satisfied with the CPIO's reply.

### **Order of the First Appellate Authority**

No order passed.

### **Grounds of the Second Appeal**

Information sought not provided.

### **Relevant facts emerging during the Hearing, Discussion and Decision**

The Appellant was not present in spite of a written notice having been sent to him. The representative of the Respondents did not appear to be fully familiar with the facts of the case. In response to our query, he stated that Shri Rajbir is the CPIO based at Ludhiana. Therefore, we direct Shri Rajbir to ensure that he himself appears for the hearings of the Commission in future with full facts of the cases under consideration.

2. We have considered the records placed before us. It appears that the Appellant had filed an RTI application dated 13.3.2015 to the Ludhiana Regional Office of the bank, seeking certain information. He also filed another application of the same date to the Central Office of the bank, seeking the same information. The Chief Regional

Manager of the bank at Ludhiana wrote to the Appellant on 1.6.2015, stating that the ACPIO furnished a reply to the Appellant on 11.4.2015 and since the information request to both the offices was for the same information, there was no need to furnish a separate reply for the same information request made to the other office. The query of the RTI application dated 5.6.2015 has arisen from the above reply dated 1.6.2015 from the Chief Regional Manager. Since the RTI application was filed for the same information to two different offices of the bank and one of those offices responded, the other office could have disposed of the application filed to them by making a reference to the reply already sent by one of the two offices. While we would advise the CPIO to do so in future, it is equally clear that the Appellant filed two applications to two different offices for the same information. Such actions of RTI applicants end up multiplying the number of RTI applications received by public authorities, thereby placing avoidable burden on them to respond to the same. Therefore, in our view, no further action is due on the RTI application dated 5.6.2015.

3. With the above observations, the appeal is disposed of.
4. Copies of this order be given free of cost to the parties.

Sd/-  
(Sharat Sabharwal)  
Information Commissioner

Authenticated true copy. Additional copies of orders shall be supplied against application and payment of the charges prescribed under the Act to the CPIO of this Commission.

(Vijay Bhalla)  
Deputy Registrar