

In view of the above, the 2nd appeal may be taken on file and Notices issued to both the parties for hearing on 12-08-2021 at 10.30 A.M.

The case is called on 12-08-2021. The appellant is present and stated that the PIO has not furnished the complete information. The APIO /Ms. N. Swapna, Senior Assistant and Sri P. Praveen Kumar, Deputy Executive Engineer, O/o the Panchayat Raj Sub-Division Zahirabad, Sanga Reddy District are present and filed affidavit stating that vide letter No: 114/RTI Act/ZHB/2020 dated: 26-06-2020 the appellant was informed the information sought is available with the District Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Sanga Reddy District and on receipt of the same from them, the said information would be furnished. The PIO vide letter No: 114/RTI Act/ZHB/2020 dated: 29-07-2020 the available information was furnished to the appellant. The PIO filed the copies of the letters before the Commission.

Heard both the parties and perused the material papers available on record and observed that the appellant through his 6(1) application dated: 25-06-2020 seeking information on 6 points which is huge & voluminous.

The Commission is of the view that as per the orders issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Central Board of Secondary Education and Anr. Vs. Aditya Bandopadhyay and Ors in Civil Appeal No. 6454 OF 2011 (arising out of SLP(C) No: 7526/2009) wherein in it is stated that:

“Indiscriminate and impractical demands or directions under RTI Act for disclosure of all and sundry information (unrelated to transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Public Authorities and eradication of corruption) would be counter productive as it will adversely affect the efficiency of the administration and result in the executive getting bogged down with the non-productive work of collecting and furnishing information. The Act should not be allowed to be misused or abused, to become a tool to obstruct the national development and integration, or to destroy the peace, tranquility and harmony among its citizens. Nor should it be converted into a tool of oppression or intimidation of honest officials striving to do their duty. The nation does not want a scenario where 75% of the staff of the Public Authorities spends 75% of their time in collecting and furnishing the information to the appellants instead of discharging their regular duties. The treat of penalties under the RTI Act and the pressure of the authorities under the RTI Act should not lead to employees of Public Authorities prioritizing ‘information furnishing’ at the cost of their normal duties.”

Keeping in view of the above Supreme Court decision, the Commission directs the PIO to arrange for verification of records on a mutually fixed date and time by issuing prior intimation to the appellant to enable him to obtain the required specific information and to report compliance to the Commission.

With the above direction, the appeal is closed.

SYED KHALEELULLAH
STATE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

Authenticated by:

Section Officer
Copy to: SO / SF / OC