

ARUNACHAL PRADESH INFORMATION COMMISSION, APIC ITANAGAR

An appeal case U/S 19(3) of RTI Act, 2005 Vide Case No. Appeal -271/A/2025

BEFORE THE COURT OF SHRI KHOPEY THALEY, STATE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

Shri Vijay Pertin & Kalom Perme.....

Appellant

Versus

PIO-cum-SDO, Tezu,

Lohit District

Respondent

Date of hearing

10/09/2025

Date of decision/Judgment

10/09/2025

INFORMATION COMMISSIONER: Shri Khopey Thaley

Relevant facts emerging from Appeal:

RTI application file on

08/11/2024

PIO replied on

First appeal file on

23/12/2024

First Appellate Authority's order

2nd Appeal dated

10/03/2025

Information sought:

The appellant file an RTI Application dated 08/11/2024 seeking information regarding Scheduled Tribe Certificate and Permanent Resident Certificate of Shri Chowna Mein.

As per the case record, PIO has never conducted hearing under his jurisdiction.

Being dissatisfied, the appellant filed First Appeal dated 23/12/2024. No any hearing has conducted by the First Appellate Authority in this regard. Feeling aggrieved and dissatisfied, appellant approached the Commission with instant Second Appeal.

The following were present.

Appellant

Shri Vijay Pertin present in person.

Respondent:

PIO-cum-SDO, Tezu absent

JUDGEMENT ORDER

This is an appeal filed under sub-section (3) of Section 19 of the RTI Act, 2005. Brief fact of the case is that the appellants Shri Vijay Pertin & Shri Kalom Perme **08.11.2024** filed an RTI application under Form-'A' before the PIO-cum-SDO, Tezu, Lohit District, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh whereby, seeking various information, as quoted in Form-A application. The Appellant, being not satisfied with the information received from the PIO, filed the First Appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 2**3.12.2024**, Appellant, again having not received the required information from the FAA, filed the Second Appeal before the Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission on 10.03.2025 and the Registry of the Commission (APIC), having receipt of the appeal, registered it as APIC No.271/A/2025 and processed the same for its hearing and disposal.

Accordingly, matter came up for hearing before the Commission for 1(one) time i.e on 10/09/2025. In this hearing of the appeal on 10th day of September 2025, the PIO-cum-SDO, Tezu, Lohit District found absent and the appellant Shri Vijay Pertin present in person.

As per the order given by the First Appellate Authority-cum-DC Lohit, dated 16/12/2024, stating that the documents sought by the appellant falls under the purview of exempted category under section 8(1)(j) of the RTI the appellant has not mentioned any reason to establish the disclosure of sought information being related to larger public interest.

That during the hearing the appellant's deposition was that the ST and PRC as sought by him is of larger public interest because he has doubts about the identity of the person.

Section 8(1)(j) "Information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest, or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual unless the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) or the appellate authority is satisfied that the larger public interest justifies the disclosure."

After perusing the case record and hearing from the appellant, the Commission is of the view that RTI Act is not a tool to intrude into personal lives, especially where no public interest is involved. The RTI Act is not a surveillance tool and cannot be used to gather personal details of others without a strong and demonstrated public cause. RTI Act is designed to ensure accountability in governance and not to interfere into personal and professional lives of others without lawful justification.

In the instant case, no element of larger public interest is invoked by the appellant to justify overriding the privacy protections enshrined in the law. The appellant has not made a bona fide public interest in seeking information, the disclosure of such information would cause unwarranted invasion of privacy of the individual under sec 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act.

Therefore the Commission is of the view that the appellant has not succeeded in establishing that the information sought for is for the larger public interest.

The FAA's order is found to be reasoned and in accordance with Law.

Therefore the same is upheld and the appeal case no. APIC- 271/A/2025 is dispose of and close.

Judgment/Order pronounced in the open Court by the Commission today on this 10th day of September, 2025. Each copy of Judgment/Order be furnished to the parties.

Given under my hand and seal of this Commission/Court on this 10th day of September, 2025.

Sd/-

(Khopey Thaley) State Information Commissioner

APIC, Itanagar.

Dated Itanagar, the 12... September, 2025.

Memo.No.APIC-271/A/2025 Copy to:

1. The PIO-cum-SDO, Tezu, Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh for kind information.

2. Shri Vijay Pertin & Shri Kalom Perme, Village-Ithili, PO/PS, Roing, Lower Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh for information. Contact No. 7005487635

3 The Computer Programmer for upload on the Website and emailed to concerned.

4. Office Copy.

APIC-Itanagar

Deputy Registrar Arunadhal Pradesh Information Commission - Itanagar