



**ARUNACHAL PRADESH INFORMATION COMMISSION
ITANAGAR**

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF MAJOR GENERAL JARKEN GAMLIN, AVSM, SM,
VSM (RETD), STATE CHIEF INFORMATION COMMISSIONER**

No.APIC-723/2023

Dated, Itanagar the 26th May, 2025

Appeal Under Section 19(3) RTI Act, 2005

Appellant: Sri Kaya Parang Londa, Bank tinali, Near king cup Public School, Lowang Appartment, Itanagar Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh, PIN-791111, (M) 8732823129.

Vs

Respondent-No. 1: Shri Aduk Paron, the PIO-cum-DFO, Govt. of A.P., o/o Divisional Forest Officer, Khellong Forest Division, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh, PIN- 790114.

Respondent- No. 2: Shri Vineet Kumar Jawal, IFS, CF & Field Director, Namdapha National Park & Tiger Reserve, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh, PIN- 792122.

ORDER

1). This is an appeal under Section 19(3) of RTI Act, 2005 filed by Shri Kaya Parang Londa, Bank Tinali, Near King Cup Public School, Lowang Apartment, Itanagar Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh, for non-furnishing of information by the PIO-cum-DFO, Govt. of A.P., o/o Divisional Forest Officer, Khellong Forest Division, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh as sought by the Appellant under section 6(1) of RTI Act, 2005 vide Form-A dated 09/05/2023 regarding total fund allocated in CAMPA under CA, Activities in the Khellong Forest Department.

2). The 8th hearing was held on 6th May' 2025. Respondent-No. 1. Shri Aduk Paron, the PIO-cum-DFO, Govt. of A.P., o/o Divisional Forest Officer, Khellong Forest Division, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh was represented by Shri Tanga Murtem, RFO. The Respondent- No. 2, Shri Vineet Kumar Jawal, IFS, CF & Field Director, Namdapha National Park & Tiger Reserve, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh was absent. The Appellant Shri Kaya Parang Londa was present.

3). Shri Tanga Murtem, RFO, informed that, the Respondent- No. 1, due to urgent work at Office, could not attend the hearing. Also, informed that the Respondent- No. 2, Shri Vineet Kumar Jawal, IFS, has been transferred to Dadra, Nagar Haveli, Daman, and Diu.

4). Summary of the case

I). During the 1st hearing held on 21st November, 2023, Shri Aduk Paron, the PIO-cum-DFO, Govt. of A.P., o/o Divisional Forest Officer, Khellong Forest Division, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh had submitted that the information sought for by the appellant under CAMPA project were for the period from 2019 to 2023. The Khellong Forest Division, Balukpong, West Kameng District, within the CAMPA project comprises multiple works, for various areas and the information sought was vague and voluminous. The Appellant was directed to seek detailed information for a specific work from the CAMPA project of particular area. The Appellant could not name any work, so the PIO was directed to give list of work to the Appellant.

II). List of work was furnished to the Appellant during the 2nd hearing held on 27th February, 2024. The Appellant had chosen to have detailed of information for Sl.no. 30, i.e. **Maintenance of habitiat improvement through ANR plantation constructed under the State CAMPA AOP 2015-16.**

III). Some information were furnished to the Appellant during the 3rd hearing held on 9th Apr. 2024 by Shri Aduk Paron, the PIO-cum-DFO, Govt. of A.P., o/o Divisional Forest Officer, Khellong Forest Division. The Appellant then had appealed for time to go through. So, the next date of hearing was fixed.

IV). In the 4th hearing held on 18th June, 2024, Shri Tanga Murtem, RFO represented Shri Aduk Paron, the PIO-cum-DFO. The representative of the PIO had submitted a letter No. KD/33/2021/campa/951-52 Dated 14th June, 2024 addressed to the Appellant stating that there is no record available for the information in connection with "Maintenance of habitat improvement through ANR plantation constructed under State CAMPA AOP 2015-16" as requested by the Appellant on the 2nd hearing.

V). The Commission after perusal of the records and Form-A submitted by the Appellant, asked the Appellant to chose one financial year within 2019 to 2023 and one work from the scheme. The Appellant chooses to seek information for "**Creation of ANR**" for the **financial year 2020 – 21**. The representative to the PIO agreed to furnish the information as chosen by the Appellant.

VI). During the 5th hearing Shri Tanga Murtem, RFO represented Shri Aduk Paron, the PIO-cum-DFO and submitted that the information sought for by the Appellant were not available in the office records. The APIO also informed that the Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) projects are generally implemented by technical experts, hence NITs are not done. So, the information sought by the Appellant may not be available.

VII). The Commission could not get a satisfactory reply from the APIO, therefore, the PIO was directed to furnish information as sought for by the Appellant, or give justifiable reasons through an AFFIDAVIT, if information was not available or should write to his higher office for obtaining the information and assist the Appellant to approach the FAA.

VIII). During the 6th hearing held on 17th December, 2024, Shri Aduk Paron, the PIO-cum-DFO, Govt. of A.P., o/o Divisional Forest Officer, Khellong Forest Division, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh was represented by Ms Dreema Lhamu, APIO-cum-Forester. She submitted letter No. KD/33/202/CAMPA/2619 dated Bhalukpong, the 2nd December, 2024 and informed that as per the direction of the Commission, the PIO had written to Shri Vineet Kumar Jawal, IFS, the then DFO cum PIO during whose tenure the information pertains to and the one who implemented the scheme. Also had informed that other than mailing to the officer, the contents were shared over whatsapp to the PA to Field Director, Namdapha and as per the direction of the Commission, the PIO had written to the higher authority i.e. The FAA-cum-CCF (Western Circle), Govt. of A.P. O/o Chief Conservator of Forests Western Circle, Banderdewa, Arunachal Pradesh about the issue vide letter No. KD/33/2021/campa/2619 dated 02.12.2024.

IX). In observance of submission made by Shri Aduk Paron, the PIO-cum-DFO, Khellong Forest Division, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh, the former PIO-cum-DFO, Shri Vineet Kumar Jawal, IFS, was summoned and directed to attend the next date of hearing.

X). During the 7th hearing held on 18th February, 2025. The Respondent- No. 2, Shri Vineet Kumar Jawal, IFS, CF & Field Director, Namdapha National Park & Tiger Reserve, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh was absent. He vide Memo No. NNP (TR)RTI/2024/19/VOL-III/636 date 10th Feb, 2025 requested for rescheduling of the hearing and since he was attending a training for I.F.S. officers at NCSCM Chennai w.e.f. 17/02/2025 to 21/02/2025. The Commission, giving reasonable opportunity, had fixed next date of hearing on 6th May, 2025.

5). It is viewed that the Appellant had sought for vague & voluminous information. Under Section 6(1) of the RTI Act, the Appellant was assisted to seek specific information by providing list of works. The appellant had sought for '**Maintenance of habitat improvement through ANR plantation constructed under State CAMPA AOP 2015-16**' from the list provided. Though, the information requested was out of Form-A dated 09/05/2023, the PIO vide letter No. KD/33/2021/campa/951-52 Dated 14th June, 2024 informed that there was no record available for the information as requested by

the Appellant. Thereby, the Appellant had requested for information for "Creation of ANR" for the financial year 2020 – 21. Again during the 5th hearing Shri Tanga Murtem, RFO representing Shri Aduk Paron, the PIO-cum-DFO had submitted that the information sought for by the Appellant are not available in the office records.

6). Though, the Appellant is not clear about the specific information he requires, but non-furnishing of information to a citizen is tantamount to breach of fundamental rights guaranteed to citizen under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India. The Commission directs Shri Aduk Paron, the PIO-cum-DFO, Govt. of A.P., o/o Divisional Forest Officer, Khellong Forest Division, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh to appear before the Commission's court at Itanagar on the next date of hearing, with relevant information if any. **Note that no representative would be entertained on the next date of hearing.**

7). The willful absence and non-compliance of the Commission's order by the respondent- No. 2: Shri Vineet Kumar Jawal, IFS, than PIO-cum-DFO, Khellong Forest Division, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh, is tantamount to contempt of court. For violation of provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 the PIO is liable to be penalized under section 20(1) of the RTI Act. However, the Commission in view of section 7(9) of the RTI Act, 2005, and decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court held in the case of CBSE vs Aditya Bandopadhyay, for the larger public interest, in order not to divert resources of public authority, under section 18(3) of the RTI Act directs the present PIO to give his reasonable and justifiable statement through AFFIDAVIT and furnish to the Appellant for further course of action that the information seeker may like to take against the concerned public authority.

8). The next date of hearing is fixed on 8th July, 2025 (Tuesday) at 1100hrs.

9). **Therefore**, Shri Aduk Paron, the PIO-cum-DFO, Govt. of A.P., o/o Divisional Forest Officer, Khellong Forest Division, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh, is directed to appear **in person** before the Commission's court, failing which the Commission shall be compelled to initiate penal provision under section 20(1) of the RTI Act 2005 against the PIOs. In case the Appellant is found absent the case would be disposed of without any further notice.

Order copies be issued to all the parties.

Sd/-

[Major General Jarken Gamlin, AVSM, SM, VSM (Retd)],
State Chief Information Commissioner
Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission

Itanagar

Memo No.APIC-723/2023/215

Dated, Itanagar the 29 May' 2025

Copy to:

1. The PCCF, Govt. of A.P, Deptt of Environment & Forest, Zero Point, Itanagar, for information and necessary action.
2. The Deputy Commissioner, Changlang, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh for information and necessary action.
3. The FAA-cum-CCF (Western Circle), Govt. of A.P. O/o Chief Conservator of Forests Western Circle, Banderdewa, Arunachal Pradesh, PIN-791123, for necessary action.
4. Shri Vineet Kumar Jawal, IFS, CF & Field Director, Namdapha National Park & Tiger Reserve, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh, PIN- 792122, for compliance.
5. Shri Aduk Paron, the PIO-cum-DFO, Govt. of A.P., o/o Divisional Forest Officer, Khellong Forest Division, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh, PIN- 790114.
6. Sri Kaya Parang Londa, Bank tinali, Near king cup Public School, Lowang Appartment, Itanagar Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh, PIN-791111, (M) 8732823129.
7. Computer Programmer, APIC, Itanagar, to upload in APIC Website & send mail to all the parties.
8. Case file.

Registrar / Dy. Registrar
Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission
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