CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Decision No. CIC/SG/C/2009/001088/5392

Complaint No. CIC/SG/C/2009/001088

Relevant Facts emerging from the Complaint:

Complainant : Mr. Rajeev Kumar

R/o B-26, IIT Campus Kharagpur, W.B. - 721302

Respondent : Mr. D. Boro

Public Information Officer &

Asst. Registrar (SA)

Indian Institute of Technology – Guwahati

Guwahati – 781039 (Assam)

RTI application filed on : 15/06/2009
PIO's reply : No reply given
Complaint received on : 27/07/2009
Notice issued by Commission on : 30/07/2009
PIO's reply : 13/08/2009
Date of Notice of hearing : 07/10/2009
Date of Hearing : 06/11/2009

Background:

The Complainant filed a RTI Application on 15/06/2009. As he did not receive a reply, he sent a Complaint dated 18/07/2009 to the Commission which was registered as CIC/SG/C/2009/001088. He received a reply dated 13/07/2009 from the PIO on 20/07/2009. In this reply the PIO's reply to all queries was that as the JEE 2009 admission process was still going on, they could respond to the Complainant's queries. He further informed the Complainant to get in touch with him after 01/08/2009.

After receiving this reply, the Complainant informed the Commission that he was withdrawing the Complaint as he was approaching the First Appellate Authority. In his communication, however, he noted that the PIO had not provided any information. He filed a First Appeal on 20/07/2009. He received additional information from the PIO on 13/08/2009 as follows:

Sl.	Information Sought	Reply of the PIO dated 13/08/2009
1	Cut-off marks for each of the three individuals,	
	namely, mathematics, physics and chemistry,	
	along with the aggregate cut-off marks in each	
	of the category of students.	
2.	Cut-off marks used in the extended merit list	
	(EML) for each of the three individual	
	subjects, namely, mathematics, physics and	Already published in the JEE website of
	chemistry along with the aggregate cut-off	all IITs.

	marks in each of the category of students.	
3.	An affirmation that the procedure to arrive at	
	the above cut-off marks is the same as the	
	published one in JEE 2009 information	
	brochure.	
4.	Number of total candidates who (i) submitted	Total number of candidates appeared in
	their applications, (ii) appeared in both paper 1	both the papers and whose result was
	and paper 2, and whose (iii) result was	announced is 384977 (GE: 232334, OG:
	announced, in each of the category of students.	104042; SC: 36117 and ST: 1248)
5.	A CD containing marks (in each individual	Exempted under Clause 8(1)(j) of RTI
	subjects), AIR and EML rank (if any), and	Act 2005.
	personal details including registration no.	
	name, category, sex, date of birth, parent's	
	name, address, email-address, telephone no.	
	and PIN of all students who appeared in both	
	papers of JEE 2009.	
6.	A copy of the counseling brochure 2009.	Already published in the JEE website of
		all IITs.
7.	Detailed procedure of admitting students	The detailed procedure for admitting
	through second round of admission.	students through the second round of
		admission is available in the Counselling
		Brochure of JEE-2009, which has been
		made available in JEE website.
8.	Model answers for all the questions in paper I	Already published in the JEE website off
	and paper II along with the marking scheme.	all IITs.
9.	Minutes of the meeting which decided against	There was never any decision against
	the common practice of issuing hard copy of	issuing hard-copy of the performance
	the performance card to the candidates.	card to the candidate through JEE
		websites was proposed to the joint
		admission board (JAB) in its meeting
		held on August 31, 2008 which the JAB
4.0		approved.
10.	Minutes of the meeting which decided against	There was never any decision against
	the common practice of making the counseling	making the counseling brochure public
	brochure public through the JEE web-site.	through JEE website.

Ground for Complaint:

The Complainant vide his letter dated 30/08/2009 informed the Commission that he had received some of the information from the JEE web site and from the PIO's reply dated 13/08/2009. He had however not received response to **Query No. 5**. He referred to a previous decision of the Commission CIC/OK/A/2008/01279/SG/0831 dated 02/01/2009 in which the PIO, IIT Kharagpur was directed to provide identical information of another JEE. He further stated that with the supply of information many serious irregularities in the selection list had surfaced by which many hundreds/thousands of candidates were affected.

The Complainant has mentioned in his letter dated 18/07/2009 to the Commission that the information that he has sought has been provided to him with regard to other JEEs previously through orders of the CIC, RTI Applications or from the JEE website.

Relevant Facts emerging during Hearing:

The following were present:

Complainant: Mr. Rajeev Kumar;

Respondent: Mr. B.K.Sharma on behalf of Mr. D. Boro PIO & Asst. Registrar (SA);

The Appellant wanted details of the examination results of JEE-2009. The Respondents had provided the data with only some of the fields and severed some of the data using Section 10 of the RTI Act. The Respondents claims exemption under Section 8(1)(j) for severing the fields. The Commission looked at the two data bases which are required by the Appellant. The Appellant wants the data in the electronic form with the following fields:

- 1- Registration number.
- 2- Name.
- 3- Gender.
- 4- Category.
- 5- Sub-category.
- 6- Parents name.
- 7- Pin communication.
- 8- Marks in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry & over all mark.

The Respondent states, "the above list contains several fields including registration number, name and parents name which are personal information of the candidates and should not be revealed to the third party."

Personal details like mobile phone numbers and email addresses would certainly fall in the category of information, the disclosure of which could be considered an invasion on the privacy of an individual. However, the Commission rules that merely giving the name of the person and the pin code with the marks obtained cannot be considered as an invasion of the privacy of an individual, which is covered under Section 8(1) (j) of the RTI Act. In view of this, this information would be provided to the Appellant. Hence the Commission directs that the database will be given with all the fields mentioned above. The Respondent states that they would also like to the give the information in Access Database alongwith a PDF file with security protection for the PDF file.

Decision:

The Complaint is allowed.

The PIO is directed to give the information on a CD as directed above to the Appellant before 25 November 2009.

This decision is announced in open chamber.

Notice of this decision be given free of cost to the parties.

Any information in compliance with this Order will be provided free of cost as per Section 7(6) of RTI Act.

Shailesh Gandhi Information Commissioner 06 November 2009

(For any further correspondence in this matter, mention the file no. mentioned above) (RM+ ShG)