

Central Information Commission

Mr.Samir Vijay Zaveri vs Ministry Of Railways on 11 July, 2011

In the Central Information Commission
at
New Delhi

File No: CIC/AD/C/2011/0

Date of Hearing : July 11, 2011

Date of Decision : July 11, 2011

Parties:

Applicant

Shri Samir Vijay Zaveri
H.No.127, Mumbadevi Road
Daya Mandir Building
3rd Floor
Mumbai 400 003

The Applicant was present at NIC Studio, Mumbai

Respondents

The Public Information Officer
Western Railway
Divisional Railway Manager's Office
Mumbai Central
Mumbai 400 008

Represented by : Shri Gopalakrishnan, Sr.DOM
– NIC Studio, Mumbai

Information Commissioner : Mrs. Annapurna Dixit

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ORDER

Background

1

The Applicants filed an RTI application dt.21.6.10 with the PIO, Western railway, Mumbai seeking the following information:

- i) names of the stations where minimum two folding stretchers are available at Western Railway Mumbai division
 - ii) names of the stations where collapsible stretcher is available at Western Railway Mumbai division
 - iii) To permit the Applicant or his representative to inspect the same at stations.
- The Sr.DOM replied on 3.9.10 as follows:

- i) All suburban railway stations are having a provision of minimum two stretchers, but they are not of folding type.
- ii) Collapsible stretchers are not provided at any of the suburban stations.
- iii) Applicant or his representative is permitted to inspect the same at the stations after duly intimating the office.

The Applicant filed a complaint dt.21.10.10 before CIC stating that while the PIO had stated that collapsible stretchers are not provided at any of the suburban stations, however in response to an RTI application filed by Shri J.D.Sakpal, the Sr.DOM vide his letter dt.16.7.10 had stated that the stretcher provided was collapsible. He stated that the information furnished by the same PIO is contradictory with each other.

Decision

2

During the hearing, the Appellant complained about the two contradictory replies provided by one PIO in the case of Shri Sakpal and by another PIO, with reference to information sought about availability of collapsible stretchers at Railway stations. He stated that in the earlier case(Sakpal), wrong information was provided by the PIO deliberately to mislead the Appellant, when he stated that a collapsible stretcher was used to remove the patient from the accident site. His contention was that the answer given by the PIO in the instant case that there are no collapsible stretchers in Western Railway, Mumbai Division is correct. The Respondent explained that in Shri Sakpal's case the reply furnished on 16.7.10 was furnished by a PIO who was not able to comprehend what a collapsible stretcher is. He pointed out that he himself is not completely sure of what a collapsible stretcher looks like. He also pointed out that in response to the second appeal dt.21.10.10, a reply was again furnished by the PIO on 27.10.10 wherein the PIO had admitted that an inadvertent mistake was made by him in the information provided in the case of Shri Sakpal, regarding a v a i l a b i l i t y o f collapsible stretchers, while stating categorically that no collapsible stretcher has been provided to

the injured traveler and that what was used was an aluminum stretcher that was non-foldable.

3

The Commission having noted the fact that the Appellant sought no further information with respect to the RTI application, however directs the Sr.DOM/BCT to explain once again as to why against item No. 10 of his reply dt.16.7.10 in response to the RTI application dt.3.7.10 of Shri J.D.Sakpal, he had informed the Appellant that the stretcher provided was collapsible. The explanation should reach the Commission by 11.8.11 with a copy to the Appellant. No further information to be authorized for disclosure.

4. The complaint to continue.

(Annapurna Dixit) Information Commissioner Authenticated true copy (G.Subramanian)
Deputy Registrar Cc:

1. Shri Ramesh Chand S/o Late Shri Laxmanlal H.No.1486/30 Prakash Road Nagra Ajmer 305 001
2. The Public Information Officer Western Railway O/o the Chief Personnel Officer
Personnel Department Old Building Churchgate Mumbai 400 020
3. The Appellate Authority Western Railway O/o Addl. General Manager Churchgate
Mumbai 400 020
4. Officer in charge, NIC