

No: A/93/MIC - 2025
MANIPUR INFORMATION COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT NORTH BLOCK, GROUND FLOOR,
BEHIND WESTERN BLOCK,
IMPHAL, MANIPUR.
Phone No: 0385-2456495

Appeal Case No. 93 of 2025

AK. Chittaranjan Singh

- Appellant

-Vs-

SPIO/ Deputy Secretary (WR), Government of Manipur

- Respondents

DECISION

Dated 14-11-2025

For the public authority, Shri Rohit Ahanthem, SPIO and Shri Chitam Chongtham, SPIO / Superintending Engineer, Khuga Project Circle, Water Resources Department, along with Shri U. Augusta, Advocate, appeared. The appellant appeared in person.

Brief Facts and Sequence of Events:

1. On 29-04-2025, the appellant (Roll No. JEW1486) filed an RTI application dated 29-04-2025 containing 9 specific queries regarding the Direct Recruitment of Junior Engineers (Civil) vide advertisement dated 19-04-2023 and appointment order dated 14-03-2024.
2. The SPIO failed to furnish any of the 9 items within the statutory 30-day period and gave an evasive reply claiming destruction of records in the flood.
3. Aggrieved by the total non-disclosure, the appellant filed a First Appeal dated 29-05-2025 before the First Appellate Authority (FAA)/Principal Secretary/Administrative Secretary/Commissioner (Water Resources), Government of Manipur.
4. The FAA did not pass any order and furnished no information whatsoever. Because both the SPIO and the FAA completely failed to provide the sought information, the appellant was compelled to file the present Second Appeal (No. 93 of 2025) directly before this Commission on 30-06-2025.
5. Only after the filing and during the prolonged pendency of this second appeal did the public authority start disclosing information in piecemeal fashion:
 - (a) Reconstructed documents dated 26-06-2025 were supplied to the appellant only after the second appeal (the Commission received copies of the information on 02-07-2025 and 21-08-2025).
 - (b) Further disclosures were made only pursuant to repeated directions of this Commission.
6. Vide detailed decision dated 20-10-2025, the Commission recorded serious deficiencies and directed production of specific evidence by 14-11-2025.
7. On 14-11-2025, the SPIOs admitted that no file movement register is maintained in the Chief Engineer's Office.
8. During the hearing on 14-11-2025, the SPIOs voluntarily offered, and the appellant accepted, immediate personal inspection of all remnant/ damaged records still available. Both parties agreed that the inspection and taking of photocopies/ photographs may be carried out today itself after the hearing.



Findings & Decision:

This second appeal arose solely because of the complete failure of both the SPIO and the First Appellate Authority to provide any of the information sought in the RTI application dated 29-04-2025 or in the First Appeal dated 29-05-2025. All disclosures (including documents dated 26-06-2025) took place only under the active intervention of this Commission — a gross violation of Sections 7(1), 19(6) and the spirit of the RTI Act, 2005. Since the parties have now reached an amicable settlement granting the appellant full and immediate access to whatever remnant records exist, the appeal is disposed of. The Commission, however, places on record its strong displeasure at the total inaction at the SPIO and FAA levels that forced the citizen to approach the Commission in second appeal.

ORDER:

The appeal is disposed of as settled with the following directions:

1. The appellant is permitted to inspect and take photocopies/photographs of all remnant/damaged records relating to the 2023 JE (Civil) recruitment today itself (14-11-2025) in the presence of the SPIOs.
2. The public authority shall provide the first 50 photocopies free of cost, if required by the appellant.
3. The inspection shall be completed today, and a joint compliance report signed by the appellant and the SPIOs shall be filed with the Commission within seven days from today.
4. Liberty is granted to the appellant to approach this Commission again by way of a simple application in the event of any grievance arising out of the inspection of records or non-compliance with today's agreement or this order.

Sd/-

(K. Radhashyam Singh)
State Chief Information Commissioner,
Manipur Information Commission.

Typed by: -

Authenticated by

Compared by: -

(S. Inao Singh)

Deputy Registrar (Judl. -I),
Manipur Information Commission

Copy to: -

1. The FAA/ Principal Secy./Commissioner/ Secretary (WR), Govt. of Manipur.
2. The SPIO/ Deputy Secretary (WR), Government of Manipur.
3. The Superintending Engineer, Khuga Project Circle, Water Resources, Manipur.
4. Shri Akoijam Chittaranjan Singh,
Mayang Imphal Thana Mamang Leikai, Imphal West District,
P.O & P.S – Mayang Imphal. Pin No. 795132.
5. The Joint Secretary (MIC), Manipur – He is requested to upload it on the official website.

Note: - For online hearing, he/she is requested to download the **Jitsi Meet** app for use on a mobile phone or use the link <https://meet.jit.si/MIC1> for video conference (VC) on computer and enter the room name as MIC1.