

CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION

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F.No. CIC/AT/A/2006/00282
Dated, the 18th September, 2006.

Appellant: Dr.A.K. Singh, Scientist Sr. Scale (Plant Breeding), Lab No.104, National Research Centre on Rapeseed-Mustard (NRCRM), P.O. Sear, Bharatpur-321303, Rajasthan.

Respondents: Shri J.L. Sharma, AAO & Public Information Officer, National Research Centre on Rapeseed-Mustard (NRCRM), P.O. Sear, Bharatpur-321303, Rajasthan.

Dr. Arvind Kumar, Director & Appellate Authority, National Research Centre on Rapeseed-Mustard (NRCRM), P.O. Sear, Bharatpur-321303, Rajasthan.

This is an appeal filed by Dr. A.K. Singh for deemed refusal of his request dated 27.3.2006 made to the PIO, Shri J.L. Sharma, AAO, NRCRM, and his first appeal before the Appellate Authority, Dr.Arvind Kumar, Director, NRCRM on 3.5.2006. The appellant received no response from either.

The parties were called for hearing on 15.9.2006. The appellant was present in person. The respondents were represented by the Appellate Authority, Dr.Arvind Kumar, Director, NRCRM and the PIO, Shri J.L. Sharma, AAO, NRCRM.

Heard arguments.

From the narrative given by the appellant in his RTI request, it is difficult to pinpoint the precise information he wishes to have. What is clear, however, is that the appellant is somewhat disturbed by the fact that he was not asked to participate in the authorship of the book "Database on Rapeseed-Mustard Varieties Released in India (1936-2002)" released on 21st March 2003, which is an updated version of "Rapeseed-Mustard Varieties of India" earlier published under the co-authorship of the appellant.

While I have sympathy for the appellant, I am unable to decide on providing him the relief which he has requested as I am not quite sure as to what precise information he wishes to have. Several details he has asked for are present in the book co-authored by him. Others could be easily accessed through office records in the very office he serves.

P.T.O.

Considering the totality of the circumstances, however, it is considered necessary to give the appellant another opportunity to state his request for information before the Appellate Authority to enable the Appellate Authority to decide on its validity under the Act.

The case is accordingly remitted back to the Appellate Authority, Dr.Arvind Kumar for de-novo consideration for an appropriate order. The Appellate Authority shall, within 2 weeks from the date of the receipt of this order, fix a date for hearing the appellant, who will be required to give in writing the precise information he wishes to have. The Appellate Authority shall examine the request under the provisions of the RTI Act and give a finding within one week of the scheduled hearing of the case.

With these directions, the appeal is disposed of.

Sd/-
(A.N. TIWARI)
INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

Authenticated by –

Sd/-
(L.C. SINGHI)
ADDL. REGISTRAR

Address of parties:

1. Dr.A.K.Singh, Scientist Sr. Scale (Plant Breeding), Lab No.104, National Research Centre on Rapeseed-Mustard (NRCRM), P.O. Sesar, Bharatpur-321303, Rajasthan.
2. Shri J.L. Sharma, AAO & Public Information Officer, National Research Centre on Rapeseed-Mustard (NRCRM), P.O. Sesar, Bharatpur-321303, Rajasthan.
3. Dr. Arvind Kumar, Director & Appellate Authority, National Research Centre on Rapeseed-Mustard (NRCRM), P.O. Sesar, Bharatpur-321303, Rajasthan.
4. In-charge, NIC.
5. Press 'E' Group.