

Central Information Commission
File No.CIC/SM/A/2009/000583 dated 24-01-2008
Right to Information Act-2005-Under Section (19)

Dated: 4 March 2010

Name of the Appellant : Shri Dev Raj Aggarwal
C/o M/s Bharat Iron Trading Company,
Railway Road, Pathankot.

Name of the Public Authority : CPIO, State Bank of Patiala,
Zonal Office,
Ambedkar Chowk,
Jalandhar.

The Appellant was present in person.

On behalf of the Respondent, the following were present:-

- (i) Shri J.S. Rawat,
- (ii) Shri Arun Hans

2. In this case, the Appellant had, in his application dated 24 January 2008, requested the CPIO for various details about the accounts of Smt Satinder Pal Kaur and Shri Joginder Singh Sethi being maintained in the Dhakki Road, Pathankot Branch. In his reply dated 22 February 2008, the CPIO refused to disclose the information claiming exemption under Section 8(1) (d) and (e) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Against this, he preferred an appeal on 8 March 2008 which the Appellate Authority disposed of in a brief order dated 27 March 2008 by endorsing the stand of the CPIO. It is against this order that the Appellant has come before the CIC in second appeal.

3. The case was heard through videoconferencing. The Appellant was present in the Gurdaspur studio of the NIC whereas the Respondent was

present in the Jullandhar studio. We heard their submissions. The Appellant submitted that he wanted the account numbers of the above account holders in order to enforce a decree he had obtained from a competent court. On the other hand, the Respondent argued that they had been holding the account numbers of their customers in commercial confidence and if they would disclose these numbers to the Appellant, he would, obviously and admittedly, use it against the competitive interest of their customers and, therefore, the exemption provisions of Section 8(1) (d) would be attracted in this case. We tend to agree with the submissions of the Respondent. Therefore, the CPIO was right in his decision not to provide the desired information under the provisions cited above.

4. The appeal is, thus, disposed off.
5. Copies of this order be given free of cost to the parties.

(Satyananda Mishra)
Information Commissioner

Authenticated true copy. Additional copies of orders shall be supplied against application and payment of the charges prescribed under the Act to the CPIO of this Commission.

(Vijay Bhalla)
Assistant Registrar