

IN THE PAKISTAN INFORMATION COMMISSION ISLAMABAD

APPEAL NO. 1299-08-2021

Kashif Ali Sundrani

Versus

Ministry of Energy

Date of Hearing: 03.11.2021

Fawad Malik: Information Commissioner

A. APPEAL

1. The brief facts of the appeal are that Mr. Kashif Ali Sundrani preferred an application dated 03.08.2021 for the provision of the following information from the office of the Secretary, Petroleum Division, Ministry of Energy, Islamabad under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017:

“Provide me list of Federal Oil and Gas Federal Public Sector Bodies with address of their head offices.”

2. The request was not responded by the respondent public body within the frame of time provided in the Act, hence the appeal dated 27.08.2021 before the Pakistan Commission on access to information.

B. PROCEEDINGS

3. The notice of the Commission to the Deputy Secretary (Admin)/Designated Officer, Ministry of Energy was not responded nor was the organization represented during the course of hearing despite the service of the notices.

C. COMMISSION’S VIEW

4. While dealing with the matters related to information and record sought by the citizens under the Act 2017, the public bodies are under obligation to respond the applications as mandated in the Act. In the case in hand the respondent has not acknowledged the application, information is not provided to the applicant in the stipulated time frame and the notices of the Commission are ignored. The reply is not submitted and the hearing before the Commission was not represented by the public body. It is presumed that

the respondent public body is willfully avoiding the proceedings before the Commission and that the public body has nothing in the sleeves to submit in the defense. In such like circumstances the Commission is left with no option but to decide the appeal ex parte after going through the file in light of the Act.

5. The list of Federal Oil and Gas Federal Public Sector Bodies with address of their head offices is the category of information that should have been posted on the official website of the organization. The Act mandates the each public body to post the information and record mentioned in section 5 over the internet to ensure its accessibility to the public at large.

D. ORDER

6. The appeal is allowed. The Deputy Secretary (Admin)/Designated Officer, Ministry of Energy is directed to furnish the appellant the requested information and record, forthwith, but not later than ten days of the receipt of this order.

He is further directed to implement the sections 5 & 8 of the Act, under intimation to this Commission within one month of receiving this order.

Mohammad Azam
Chief Information Commissioner

Fawad Malik
Information Commissioner

Zahid Abdullah
Information Commissioner

Announced on 09.11.2021

Certified that this order consists of two (2) pages, each page has been read and signed.