

IN THE PAKISTAN INFORMATION COMMISSION ISLAMABAD

APPEAL NO. 1528-12-2021

Syed Talha Ali Hamdani

Versus

Cabinet Division

Date of Hearing: 16.02.2022

Fawad Malik: Information Commissioner

Present: Mr. Riaz Ahmad, Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Division.

A. APPEAL

1. Mr. Talha Ali Hamdani, preferred his appeal dated December 10, 2021 before the Pakistan Commission on access to information, Islamabad. He alleged that the request for information has not been responded by the Cabinet Division within the time frame stipulated under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017.
2. Through an application dated November 24, 2021 on the Pakistan Citizen's Portal the applicant has desired the "*Merit List of Civil awards announced on 14th August, 2021.*"

B. PROCEEDINGS

3. The notice of the Commission was responded by the Deputy Secretary (Awards) vide letter dated 28th December, 2021 as under:

"It is stated that under the annual circular of Cabinet Division, the recommendations for Pakistan Civil Awards were invited by Cabinet Division in December, 2020 from all Federal Ministries/Divisions and Provincial Governments. The recommendations received were arranged field-wise. The particulars and citations of the nominees were placed before the Awards Committee during meetings. Final recommendations made by the Main Awards Committee were sent to the President through the Prime Minister for final

approval under Article 259(2) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan read with the Serial No.11-A of Schedule V-B of Rules of Business, 1973. The approved list of awardees of Pakistan Civil Awards, announced on 14th August, 2021 is also availed on the website of Cabinet Division i.e. www.cabinet.gov.pk, being a public documents. It is pertinent to mention that the adjudging merit for awardee is the responsibility/task of the Award Sub-Committee and Main Award Committee based on this, they recommend personality for any of the Civil Award in a particular field. The Cabinet Division, as per existing Law/Rules/Policy, has no role in making any merit list of awardee prior to consultation of Sub/Main Award Committee. The SOP's detailed procedure for recommendation/announcement/conferment of Pakistan Civil Awards, 2021 are enclosed for convenience."

4. The Information was shared with the appellant but he has shown dissatisfaction with the reply. He has desired copy of minutes of award committee meetings.

C. COMMISSION'S VIEW

5. In the application the appellant has asked for merit list of Civil Awards announced by the Government of Pakistan on the Independence Day. The respondent public body has responded promptly on the notice of the Commission. It is apprised therein that the approved list of awardees of Pakistan Civil Awards, awarded on the Independence Day are available on the website of the Cabinet Division. The reply is also supported with the copies of detailed instructions for making recommendations for Civil Awards for announcement on the Independence Day, Article 259 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan along with all the notifications printed periodically in the gazette of Pakistan which are sufficient to explain all the quarries related to the selection of Awardees for the Civil Awards.
6. The appellant has subsequently in the rejoinder after the submission of reply by the respondent has expanded the net and has added to the earlier request. He has further desired copy of the minutes of the Awards Committee meetings which was not included in his original request. The commission doesn't permit the expending of the request at the junction of hearing of appeal when the Public body has met and complied the original application.

D. ORDER

7. The appeal is disposed of having borne fruit.

Mohammad Azam
Chief Information Commissioner

Fawad Malik
Information Commissioner

Zahid Abdullah
Information Commissioner

Announced on 24.2.2022

Certified that this order consists of 03 pages, each page has been read and signed.