



In the Pakistan Information Commission, Islamabad

Appeal No 749-12/20

Nadeem Umer

(Appellant)

Vs.

Benazir Income Support Program

(Respondent)

ORDER

Date: October 13, 2022

Zahid Abdullah: Information Commissioner

A. The Appeal

1. The Appellant filed an appeal, dated December 10, 2020 to the Commission, stating that he submitted an information request to Director Media, Benazir Income Support Program on November 17, 2020 under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 but did not receive any response from the public body.

2. **The information sought by the Appellant is as follows:**

“1. List of the government officers -grade 16 and above who remained beneficiaries of Benazir Income Support Program, along with details of their department, current posting and total amount they have received from the BISP

2. List of the government officers-grade 16 and above-whose family members (spouse(s) or children) remained beneficiaries of BISP

3. Complete details about the measure taken by the BISP to make recovery from these officers.

4. Details about the departmental action taken against these officers. (if any)

5. Whether it is fact show cause notices were issued to these officers, if yes, please provide the list of the officers to whom show cause notices were issued, along with the details of the whether they have replied/submitted their reply or not and current status on these showcase notices.

6. Did any departmental punishment awarded to any officer to date, if yes, please provide the details of such cases.

7. Did BISP has made any recovery from any officers to date, if yes, please provide the list of the officer(s) along with the details of the recovery that have been made so far. 8. Why all this information is not available on the website of BISP under Section 5 of the Right Access to Information Act 2017 I shall be very grateful if the required information is forwarded to the undersigned within the stipulated timeframe of the law.”

B. Proceedings

3. The record on the file suggests that the Respondent submitted its response on the intervention of this commission on January 06, 2021 and its text is as under:

“The email was responded immediately the next day on November 18 information the applicant that as the information sought is wide and detail in nature has been shared

with the relevant wings and that BISP will share the required information under the RTI act 2017 as soon as possible

3 The para-wise response on behalf of BISP to the application/ email Nadeem Umer is given below.

1. List of the government officers of grade 16 and above who remained beneficiaries of BISP along with details of their department current posting total amount they have received from the BISP is enclosed herewith as Annex-i

2. List of the government officers in grade 16 and above – whose members (spouse(s) or children) remained beneficiaries of BISP are enclosed as Annex-II.

3 & 4. BISP has written letters to the provincial chief secretaries Ne secretaries and heads of various departments enclosing list of the employ their respective departments for action against them. The data about action against their employees including reconvenes made is being collected from the country and will be public as its received and compiled in h BS headquarter The same will also be shared separately with the applicant 5,687 The action taken against the BISP employees in grade 16 and of under E&D rules 1973 including recoveries made from them is available Annex -III.

BISP has recently shifted to new website made by the NITB which Populated will all the relevant information and reports Majority of the information has already been posted. All the information as required under the RTI law be available on the website in a week time

It may be pointed out that BISP is committed to provide information to all the applicants seeking information under RTI well before time. The subject RTI request included information that included data gathering and coordination from various wings and departments The BISP is yet in the process of getting and compiling information regarding the measures taken by the various governments departments and provincial governments, however, the BISP management decided to provide the information's in hand to the applicant under RTI and that the list of actions taken by other departments and provinces their employees will be shared with the applicant as soon as received

The Appellant submitted his response on February 01, 2021 and its text is as under:

It is stated that the public body has shared information. I am satisfied with the response of the public body however, the list of the officers shared as Annex-I, II and III are not readable. Font size of these documents if very small. You are requested to issue directions to the public body to either send me the same on given email id or send these documents again in better font size (at least 11 or 12).”

C. Issues

5. The instant appeal has brought to the fore the following issue:
Has the Respondent provided the requested information to the Appellant permissible under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017 in a manner that it is legible for the Respondent?

D Discussion and commission's views on relevant issues:

6. While the Appellant has shown satisfaction with the response of the Respondent, BISP, he has submitted before this commission that “list of the officers shared as Annex-I, II and III are not readable”.
7. This commission holds that as the information provided by the Respondent is not legible, the Appellant has made a reasonable request to provide the same through “given email id or send these documents again in better font size (at least 11 or 12).”.

E. Order

8. The Appeal is allowed. The Respondent is directed to provide the Appellant the requested list of the officers in a legible manner earlier shared as Annex-I, II and III either through E-mail, or, certified copy of the requested list with legible font size (at least 11 or 12). This list be provided legibly at the earliest but not later than 7 working days of the receipt of this Order, with intimation to this office.
9. Copies of this order be sent to the Respondent and the Appellant for information and necessary action.

Mohammad Azam

Chief Information Commissioner

Zahid Abdullah

Information Commissioner

Announced on:

October 14, 2022

This order consists of 3 (three) pages, each page has been read and signed.