## Pakistan Information Commission Government of Pakistan

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### In the Pakistan Information Commission, Islamabad

# **Appeal No 1594-12/21**

Israr Ahmed (Appellant)

Vs.

National Highway Authority (Respondent)

### **ORDER**

Date: March 31, 2022

Zahid Abdullah: Information Commissioner

## A. The Appeal

- 1. The Appellant filed an appeal, dated December 27, 2021, to the Commission, stating that he submitted an information request to the Chairman, National Highway Authority on December 13, 2021 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. "To provide me Existing Annual negotiated Land lease/rental district wise or otherwise list of rates per acre per annum to be paid to land owners against their hired lands throughout Pakistan.
  - 2. Whether Company has ever worked in district Ghotki, if yes then provide Annual negotiated Lands Lease/ rental list of rates per acre per annum of District Ghotki Sindh from 200 to 2021 (to date).
  - 3. What are the other sources (except negotiation) of fixation of Annual Land Lease/Rental compensations per acre per annum?
  - 4. To provide temporary/permanent land acquisition rates per acre to be paid to land owners though concerned land acquisition officers in all the District of Pakistan form 2015 to date.
  - 5. What is status of outsourced employees/workers of company through third party contractor sin this Authority whether they are being paid 5% or profit from companies, yearly profit or Not, please provide record base information with documents/laws notification issued by federal government /authority
  - 6. Whether minimum Labors wages from 2021 are being given to its  $3^{rd}$  employees announced by respective Governments or No.

7. To prove crop rate list/ existing rates of following crops/trees Etc. per acre Destroys/ damages Due to land hiring to be paid to affected lands owners."

Kind of crops/ Trees	Rates per acre
Sugar Cane	
cotton	
wheat	
Rice	
Vegetable	
Banana	
Grass	
Mango tree (Mature)	
Beri Tree (mature)	
Anrood Tree (Mature)	
Date tree (mature)	
Neem Tree(mature)	
Babool Tree (Mature)	
Tali tree (mature)	

# B. Proceedings

- 3. In response to the notices of the commission, the Respondent provided the requested information to the Appellant.
- 4. The Respondent also submitted its response through letter dated December 31, 2021 which is as under:

"In Punjab, District Price Assessment Committee (DPAC) assesses compensation amount and designated land acquisition Collectors or Revenue Department, Board of Revenue, Punjab announces award. Therefore, applicant may approach the Revenue Department for temporary /permanent land acquisition rates.

Crops rate list/existing rates of crops /trees is provided by Agricultural, Forest and Horticulture Departments. Damages building related assessment is made by Building Department, Punjab and Land acquisition Collector of the Revenue Department Boar of Revenue, Punjab announces award accordingly m therefore applicants may approach these department for the required information".

5. The Appellant submitted rejoinder in response to the Respondent and its text is as under:

"It is submitted that I am satisfied from response of the respondent in respect of para/ seral No. 4& 7 of the memo however other serial/ paras are not so far replied properly, not pertain to NHA is not good excuse; it is requested to direct NHA to provide all information/record answering all queries properly in detail".

# C. Discussion and Commission's View on Relevant Issues

- 6. The Respondent, NHA has provided the requested information in its custody. It has also informed the Appellant about the departments which are custodians of the information.
- 7. The public bodies which are custodian of the remaining information are not the attached departments of the Respondent, NHA. Therefore, the plea of the Appellant pertaining to

the provision of the requested information from the Respondent, NHA is legally untenable.

## D. Order

- 8. The Appeal is disposed of as the requested information available with the Respondent has been provided to the Appellant.
- 9. Copies of this Order be sent to the Respondent and the Appellant for information.

### **Mohammad Azam**

**Chief Information Commissioner** 

### **Fawad Malik**

**Information Commissioner** 

## Zahid Abdullah

Information Commissioner

Announced on: March 31, 2022

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