



**In the Pakistan Information Commission, Islamabad**

**Appeal No 1688-01/22**

**Rana Abrar Khalid**

**(Appellant)**

**Vs.**

**Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination**

**(Respondent)**

**ORDER**

**Date:** April 15, 2022

**Zahid Abdullah:** Information Commissioner

**A. The Appeal**

1. The Appellant filed an appeal, dated January 18, 2022, to the Commission, stating that he submitted an information request to the Federal Ministry of Health Services, Regulations and Coordination on January 03, 2022 under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 but did not receive the requested information from the public body.

2. The information sought by the Appellant is as under:-

*"I want the specific answers of the specific questions about the 'Sehat Sahulat Program' that is being run under the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination....*

1. *According to Charter of Sehat Sahulat Program (dated February 28, 2021,) Government of Khyber Pakhtukhwa, under its Sehat Insaf Plus card, is providing free of cost health insurance to more than 6 million families in the province, excluding newly merged districts of former FATA (paragraph 3 of page 4 of the charter), is it true?*
2. *However, according to the final results of 6<sup>th</sup> population Census 2017, the population of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was 30,508,920 and the annual increase in population was 2.89% while the average household size was 7.83 persons, bringing the original number of households in Khyber pakhtukhwa to 3,896,414 (3.9Million). If population growth is included from 2017 to 2020 (2.89% Per annum) then the current population of Khyber Pakhtukhwa is 34, 035, 751 and the total number of households is 4, 346,839 (4.35 million) Can you tell me that the 1,653,161 (1.65 million) additional households have been issued the 'Sehat Insaf Plus Card' by Khyber Pkhtunkhwa government, has the Federal Ministry of National Health Services. Regulations and Coordination verified by audit / special audit of these (additional) 1,653m161 households to find out who they are?*
3. *So far, how much amount has the federal government and the provincial government paid*

*in the account of health insurance for the aforesaid 1,653,161 (1.65 million) additional "Sehat Insaf Plus card" holder households of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and to which private/public sector hospitals has this amount been paid? (Please provide the list of hospitals with owner name)*

## **B. Proceedings**

3. The record on the file shows that the commission sent notice to the Deputy Secretary, (Coordination), on January 01, 2022 to submit response as to why the requested information was not provided to the Appellant. The public body did not submit its response.
4. The commission also sent hearing summons *vide letter dated March 10, 2022* for the hearing to be held on April 07, 2022 but nobody attended the hearing.

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

5. This commission takes strong exception to the fact that the Respondent neither responded to the requests for information filed by the citizen nor responded to the notices of the commission. Such utter disregard to the law will not be tolerated in future.
6. This commission maintains that the requested information pertains to the functions and responsibilities of the public body and involves public funds. These functions and responsibilities pertain to the utilization of public funds to provide healthcare facilities to citizens of Pakistan.
7. This commission maintains that the citizens of Pakistan have the right to know about the amount, if any, paid by the *federal government in the account of health insurance for the "aforesaid 1,653,161 (1.65 million) additional "Sehat Insaf Plus card" holder households of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa", as claimed by the Appellant. The citizens of Pakistan have the right to know about the names of private/public sector hospitals has who have received these public funds.*

## **D. Order**

8. The Appeal is allowed. The Respondent is directed to provide the Appellant requested information in para 2 of this Order, based on records available with the Respondent, at the earliest but not later than 7 working days of the receipt of this Order.
9. Copies of this Order be sent to the Respondent and the Appellant for information and necessary action.

Fawad Malik  
Information Commissioner

Zahid Abdullah  
Information Commissioner

Announced on: April 15, 2022

This order consists of 2 (two) pages, each page has been read and signed