

Appeal No. 1793-03/2022

Muhammad Ahsan

Vs

Ministry of Energy (Power Division)

Fawad Malik: Information Commissioner

A. APPEAL

1. Mr. Muhammad Ahsan filed an application for the provision of information under the Right of Access to the Information Act, 2017 from the office of the Secretary, Ministry of Energy (Power Division), Islamabad. Through application dated 26.01.2022 he has requested the following information.

- i. *“Number of applications receipts for the post of Steno Typist from Sindh (Urban).*
- ii. *Number of candidates invited for MCQ’s test and name of qualifying candidates.*
- iii. *Number of candidates call for shorthand/ typist test.*
- iv. *Number of candidates qualify shorthand / typist test.*
- v. *Where the undersigned placed on merit list.*
- vi. *Composition, of selection committee and authority (name designation) approved the DSC.*
- vii. *Recommendations / Minutes of the DSC to fill the slot of steno typist.”*

2. Feeling aggrieved for the non-provision of the information he filed appeal dated 3.3.2022 before the Pakistan Commission on access to information, Islamabad.

B. PROCEEDINGS

3. The Section Officer (Admn), Ministry of Energy (Power Division) vide letter No. 1(1)/2015-Admn dated 10-05-2022 provided the following information:

Sr. No	Requested Information	Reply	Remarks
1	Number of applications receipts for the post of Steno typist from Sindh (Urban)	131	
2	Number of Candidates invited for MCQ's test & Name of qualifying candidates.	131	
3	Number of candidates call for shorthand/typing test.	9	As per set criteria, the candidates who scored at least 50 marks in screening test, were called for the skill test (shorthand/typing)
4	Number of candidates qualify shorthand/typing test.	Nil	None of the candidate qualified skill test.
5	Where the applicant (Mr. Muhammad Ahsan) placed on merit list.	Nil	Applicant could not qualify the skill test.
6	Composition of selection committee & authority (name & designation) approved the DSC.	Joint Secretary (admn)- Chairman Deputy Secretary (admn)- Member Deputy Secretary (Dev)- Member Account Officer (B&F) – Member	
7	Recommendations/Minutes of the DSC to fill the slot of Steno typist.	Nil	

4. The appellant feeling dissatisfied with reply submitted by the Public Body filed his objection to the following effect.

- i. *“Attested copy of the recommendations / Minutes of the DSC to fill the 16 posts of the Steno typist (BS-14) (duly signed by the committee chairman and members).”*
- ii. *Attested copy of the paper along with marking may be provided please.”*

5. The public body replied the objections as under:

Sr. No	Requested Information	Reply
1.	Attested copy of the recommendations / Minutes of the DSC to fill the 16 posts of Steno typist (BS-14) (duly signed by the committee chairman and members)	Confidential – Cannot be provided
2.	Attested copy of the paper along with marking may be provided please.	Confidential – PIC may advise applicant to visit office of undersigned and see his paper

C. COMMISSION’S VIEW

6. The appellant has asked for the details i.e. Number of applications, Number of candidates invited for MCQ’s test, Number of candidates called for shorthand/ typist test, Number of candidates qualified shorthand / typist test, merit of the appellant, Composition of selection committee and authority (name designation) approved the DSC and the Recommendations / Minutes of the DSC to fill the slot of steno typist from Sindh (Urban).
7. The respondent public body has provided all the information and record to the appellant except the copy of the recommendations / Minutes of the DSC duly signed by the committee chairman and members terming it as confidential record. Section 7 (a) (b) &(c) of the Act exclude the notes on the files, the minutes of meetings or any intermediary opinion or recommendation subject to the final decision by the public body. Since the matter has been finalized therefore the citizens can seek a copy of the same under the provisions of the Act.
8. The copy of the paper along with marking requested by the appellant although is public record for the candidates but the appellant didn’t ask for the same in his application dated 26.1.2022. It is afterthought therefore he cannot be allowed to expand his request at this junction.

9. Transparency in the working of the government departments is the essence for the enactment of the Act 2017. Its spirit is to ensure that the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have access to the records held by the federal public bodies for making the government accountable to the people. This practise would improve the participation of the people in the public affairs aimed at reducing corruption, nepotism, discrimination, misuse of power and inefficiency in the governance.

D. ORDER

10. The appeal is disposed of with the direction to the Secretary, Ministry of Energy (Power Division), Islamabad to furnish the appellant the copy of Recommendations / Minutes of the DSC to fill the slot of steno typist from Sindh (Urban), forthwith, but in any case not later than five days of the receipt of this order.

Mohammad Azam
Chief Information Commissioner

Fawad Malik
Information Commissioner

Zahid Abdullah
Information Commissioner

Announced on 19.07.2022

Certified that this order consists of 04 pages, each page has been read and signed