

Central Information Commission

2nd Floor, August Kranti Bhawan,
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066
Website: www.cic.gov.in

**Decision No.1906/IC(A)/2008
F.No.CIC/MA/A/2007/00846**

Dated, the 31st January, 2008

Name of the Appellant : Shri Raghunath Parab
Name of the Public Authority : Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

Facts:-

1. The complainant did not avail of the opportunity of personal hearing on 31/1/2008. The complaint is, therefore, examined on merit.
2. The Appellant had asked for the list of consumers and details of delivery of subsidized cooking gas through the distributor, namely M/s. General Electric & Radio Service, Thane. The CPIO has refused to furnish the information on the ground that the information asked for is of commercial confidence, the disclosure of which is barred u/s 8(1) (d) of the Act.
3. The appellant has pleaded in his appeal that the information asked for should be put in public domain in order to control the malpractices, mainly diversion of subsidized gas from domestic to commercial uses. He has alleged that the subsidized services are not reaching the targeted population due to lack of scrutiny of services provided by the agencies of the respondent.

Decision:-

4. The details of beneficiaries of the subsidized goods and services, such as food grains, educational tool-kit, medicines, petroleum products like domestic gas, etc., and the quality and quantity of supplies thereof to the targeted groups, should not be treated as confidential information.
5. It is a common knowledge that in the provisioning and delivery of the basic services, as above, considerable pilferage and leakage take place, resulting in deprivation of basic services to the needy population. If the problem of rampant corruption is to be mitigated, the entire operation of subsidized schemes should be made duly transparent to enable the civil society, particularly the beneficiaries to claim for their entitlements. In view of this and the fact that all is not well in so

far as distribution of LPG is concealed, the information asked for cannot be claimed as of commercial confidence. The decision of the CPIO to seek exemption from disclosure of information sought for u/s 8(1)(d) of the Act is untenable. The CPIO is, therefore, directed to provide the information within 15 working days from the date of issue of this decision. If the appellant is not satisfied with the information furnished to him, he should seek inspection of records, and the CPIO should allow.

6. The appeal is thus disposed of.

Sd/-

(Prof. M.M. Ansari)
Information Commissioner

Authenticated true copy:

(L.C. Singhi)
Additional Registrar

Name and Address of the Parties:-

1. Shri Raghunath Parab, Saraswati Building, 2nd Floor, Room No.54, Sane Guruji Marg, Near Chinchpokli Railway Station (East), Mumbai – 400012.
2. Shri Vinod Giri, GM (Mktg. Coordn) & CPIO, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Bharat Bhavan, 4 & 6, Currimbhoy Road, Ballard Estate, P.B. No.688, Mumbai – 400001.
3. Shri S.A. Narayan, Director (HR) & Appellate Authority, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Bharat Bhavan, 4 & 6, Currimbhoy Road, Ballard Estate, P.B. No.688, Mumbai – 400001.