

NAGALAND INFORMATION COMMISSION

Nagaland Commissions' Complex

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Nagaland, Kohima - 797004

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No. NIC/APPEAL-11/2025-26/85

Dated Kohima, the 2nd April, 2026

Appellants :

1. Shri. Inato Chisho,
Mobile Nos. 9863302011/ 7005960261.
2. Shri. Boto Y. Swu,
Mobile No. 917005409209/8257907161
3. Shri. Zato Sumi,
Mobile No. 7085702670.

Respondents :

- (i) Shri. Sentiwapang Aier,
Secretary & FAA,
NSDMA,
Home Department,
Nagaland, Kohima.
- (ii) Shri. Temsuwangshi Jamir,
Assistant Manager & PIO,
NSDMA,
Home Department,
Nagaland, Kohima.
- (iii) Shri. Kevisede Üsuo,
SA & APIO,
NSDMA,
Home Department,
Nagaland, Kohima.

Public Authority : NSDMA, Home Department, Nagaland, Kohima.

Date of hearing : 27.03.2026 at 11:00 AM

Date of Decision : 02.04.2026.

Present:

1. Shri. Temsuwangshi Jamir, Assistant Manager & PIO, NSDMA, Home Department, Nagaland, Kohima, Mobile No. 8974539125.
2. Shri. Kuthophuyi Tetseo, Junior Section Officer, Accounts Unit, NSDMA, Mobile No. 8731896419.
3. Shri. Kevisede Üsuo, SA & APIO, NSDMA, Mobile No. 7204242480.
4. The applicants (now appellants), Shri. Inato Chisho, Mobile No. 9863302011, Shri. Boto Y. Swu, Mobile No. 917005409209 & Shri. Zato Sumi, Mobile No. 7085702670.

Shri. Sentiwapang Aier, Secretary & FAA, NSDMA, Home Department, Nagaland, Kohima did not appear for the hearing.

FACT OF THE CASE

The applicants, Shri. Inato Chisho, Shri. Boto Y. Swu and Shri. Zato Sumi had jointly submitted a RTI application dated **12/07/2025** addressed to the PIO, Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority, Home Department, Nagaland, Kohima, seeking the following information

under Right to Information Act, 2025 regarding SDRF, NDRF and additional Drought Relief Fund from 2022 till date:-

1. Fund Allocation & Sanction (As per Sections 2(f), 2(j), and 6(1) of the RTI Act))

Please provide year-wise details from 2022 to date for NDRF, SDRF, and additional Drought Relief Fund:

A. Total funds received, including:

1. Amount received from the Central Government under NDRF and SDRF
2. Amount contributed by the State Government under SDRF
3. Funds sanctioned/allocated specifically for drought relief activities
4. Copies of sanction orders and approval letters for NDRF, SDRF, and Additional Drought Relief
5. Copies of fund release communications from:
 - a. Central Government to State Government
 - b. State Government to NSDMA

2. Utilization & Expenditure (As per Sections 2(f), 2(j), 6(1), and 4(1)(b)(xi))

- A. Year-wise Utilization Certificates /(UCs) and Audit Reports submitted to the Government of India
- B. Funds utilized Vs unspent balances (2022 to present)
- C. Copies of Utilization Certificates submitted (2022 onwards)
- D. Detailed breakdown of administrative expenditures, including justification of major items
- E. Copies of receipts, invoices, bills, and payment vouchers for major expenses under all three funds

3. Beneficiary List & Relief Distribution (As per Sections 2(f), 2(j), and 4(1)(b)(xii))

Please provide district-wise and village-wise beneficiary lists from 2022 to present for individuals, NGOs, contractors, or firms who received assistance, showing:

- Full name of beneficiary
- Village/Town and District
- Contact phone number and Aadhaar number (as per Section 8(1)(i) Proviso in public interest)
- Amount received (year-wise)
- Mode of payment (cash/cheque/bank transfer etc.)
- Purpose of assistance (relief, procurement, repair, etc.)

4. Pending/Unspent Funds (As per Sections 2(f), 2(j), 4(1)(d), and 6(1))

- A. Year-wise unutilized fund balances for NDRF, SDRF, and Additional Drought Relief
- B. Copies of official correspondence (if any) with Central or State Government regarding:
 - Delays in fund release
 - Diversion/mismanagement of funds
 - Requests for additional or revised allocations.

5. Financial Transactions (Bank Statements & Cheque Details)

- A. Certified copies of bank statements of official NSDMA accounts where NDRF, SDRF, and Additional Drought Relief funds were deposited and withdrawn (Year-wise from 2022 to present)
- B. Cheque transaction details Year-wise from 2022 to present (As per Sections 2(f), 2(j), 6(1), and 4(1)(b)(xi) of the RTI Act, 2005) including:
 - Cheque number
 - Payee name
 - Amount
 - Date of transaction
 - Purpose of payment
 - Scanned copies of cheque leaves used for payments to contractors, vendors, and beneficiaries

6. PFMS-Based Disbursement and Tracking Reports (As per Sections 2(f), 2(j), 4(1)(b)(xii))

If NSDMA has used the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) to disburse funds under SDRF, NDRF, and Additional Drought Relief, kindly provide the following information (year-wise from 2022 to present):

- A. District-wise list of all beneficiaries (individuals, vendors, NGOs, firms) who received payments through PFMS*
- B. For each beneficiary:*
 - Full name*
 - Village/Town and District*
 - Amount received*
 - Date of disbursement*
 - Purpose of disbursement (e.g., relief, repair, procurement, etc.)*
 - Mode of payment*
 - PFMS Transaction ID*
- C. List of vendors/contractors/NGOs registered and paid through PFMS*
- D. Utilization/expenditure summary reports and fund flow reports generated from PFMS*
- E. Bank reconciliation statements or fund tracking summaries between PFMS and NSDMA records*

On receipt of the above RTI application dated **12/07/2025** on **14/07/2025**, since there was no reply within 30 days, the applicants had submitted first appeal dated **19/08/2025** addressed to the FAA, Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority, Home Department, Nagaland, Kohima.

On non-response to the above first appeal from the FAA within the **30 (thirty) days**, the applicants (now appellants) had submitted Second Appeal dated **26/09/2025** to the Nagaland Information Commission.

On receipt of the above Second appeal dated **26/09/2025**, the Commission had, vide letter even dated **10/11/2025**, directed the FAA, Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority, Nagaland, Kohima, to hear the first appeal by conducting a hearing of both the parties i.e., the PIO concerned and the applicants (now appellants) and thereafter submit a copy of the decision on the first appeal to the Commission within **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of receipt of its directive.

However, inspite of the Commission's directive dated **10/11/2025**, since no hearing was called by the FAA, the applicants (now appellants) had, vide letter dated **27/11/2025**, complained to the Commission that even after a lapse of **15 (fifteen) days**, the public authority had neither passed any information nor conducted the first appeal hearing to the applicants (now appellants).

On not getting any information to the Commission's directive from the FAA, the Commission had, vide letter of even No. dated **15/12/2025**, reminded the FAA, Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority, Nagaland, Kohima, to comply to its directive by hearing the first appeal within **10 (ten) days** from the date of receipt of its reminder.

In compliance to the Commission's directive dated **15/12/2025**, Shri. Temsuwangshi Jamir, PIO, NSDMA, Home Department, Nagaland, Kohima had, vide letter **No. 11/01/2025/009-NSDMA/1727** dated **22/12/2025**, informed the applicants (now appellants) and with a copy to the Commission that the hearing of the first appeal which was scheduled on **22/12/2025 at 09:30 AM**, vide letter **No. 11/01/2025/009-NSDMA/1697** dated **19/12/2025**, had been postponed on the verbal communication by the applicants (now appellants) on **21/12/2025** due to short notice for the hearing and that the next date of hearing would be intimated in due course.

The applicants (now appellants) had on **24/02/2026**, submitted to the Commission that after the hearing on **02/02/2026**, information was furnished on **10/02/2026**, purportedly in compliance with the First Appellate Authority's explicit direction to provide complete, point-wise information free of cost. However, the information so furnished was demonstrably incomplete, internally inconsistent, and evasive, and has exposed serious financial discrepancies, suppression of primary records, and wilful non-compliance with both the FAA's order and the RTI Act, thereby necessitating the present appeal.

Since the applicants (now appellants) are not satisfied with the information furnished, the Commission has decided to hear the above mentioned appeal giving opportunity of being heard to

all the parties on 27th March, 2026(Friday) at 11:00 AM in the Hearing Room of Nagaland Information Commission, Nagaland Commissions' Complex, New Capital Complex, Nagaland, Kohima and also to bring the files and relevant documents in question for scrutiny on the above date and time for hearing.

1. The FAA, Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority, Home Department, Nagaland, Kohima.
2. The PIO, Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority, Home Department, Nagaland, Kohima.
3. The applicants (now appellants), Shri. Inato Chisho, Mobile No. 9863302011, Shri. Boto Y. Swu, Mobile No. 917005409209 & Shri. Zato Sumi, Mobile No. 7085702670.

OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS:

The Commission had received a letter No. 11/02/2026-NSDMA/468 dated 26.03.2026 from Shri. Sentiwapang Aier, Secretary & FAA, NSDMA, Home Department informing the Commission about his inability to attend the hearing due to the ongoing Budget Session of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly scheduled on the same day i.e. 27.03.2026.

During the hearing, the applicants(now appellants) stated that there was no reply given by the PIO to their RTI application and no action or hearing by the FAA to their First Appeal. Only on the direction of the Commission to the FAA on 10.11.2025 and subsequent reminder on 15.12.2025 to take up the First Appeal dated 19.08.2025, did the FAA heard on 02.02.2026. The FAA had in his decision passed vide No. 11/01/2025/018-NSDMA/146 dated 04.02.2026 observed that *the PIO had issued letters to the deemed PIOs on 25.07.2025 seeking for the records. However, the delay was attributed to administrative constraints including shortage of manpower in the Accounts Unit and the fact that the information sought pertained to multiple funds, namely, NDRF, SDRF and Additional Drought Relief. The FAA further observed and admitted the delay and directed the PIO to furnish the information free of cost on or before 10.02.2026.*

In compliance to the FAA's decision, the information was furnished vide letter No. 08/06/2025/NSDMA dated 10.02.2026, however, the applicants (now the appellants) submitted that the information so furnished was not satisfied.

Shri. Temsuwangshi Jamir, Assistant Manager & PIO, NSDMA replied that though delayed, the information as sought were furnished at Annexures – I, II, III and IV. He informed that the delay was due to some administrative constraints and shortage of manpower. He stated that for query No. 2, since copies of bills, payment vouchers, receipts, invoices etc were voluminous, he had invited the applicants for inspection. Regarding query No. 3, the list of beneficiaries had been provided except the of the beneficiaries as per the *Aadhaar (Sharing of information) Regulations, 2016*.

Shri. Kuthophuyi Tetseo, Junior Section Officer, Accounts Unit, NSDMA also informed that there are 83 employees and only 25 employees were spread across the various districts, and since the records had to be collected from all the districts and due to shortage of manpower, the reply could not be given on time.

The Commission observed that RTI is not only the responsibility of the PIO or the APIO, and under the RTI framework, the PIO can delegate or seek the assistance of any other officers as envisaged under Section 5 sub-sections (4) and (5) of the RTI Act, 2005. Regarding the Aadhaar numbers of the beneficiaries/individuals, the Commission had also agreed with the submission of the PIO as in several cases in the past, disclosure of aadhaar numbers were not allowed.

On the submission of the applicants (now appellants) that the information regarding the Drought Relief Fund was not given in proper arrangement or shape, making it cumbersome to sort out and understand, Shri. Kuthophuyi Tetseo, Junior Section Officer, Accounts Unit, NSDMA replied that under Drought Relief Fund, purchase of rice was made and distributed through the

District Administration for onward distribution to the villages, hence, transportation and labour charges for the distribution would be available with the respective District Administration.

On examination of the information furnished to the applicants (now appellants) on 10.02.2026, the Commission observed that whatever information available had been furnished except the copies of bills, payment vouchers, receipts, invoices etc. and the transportation and labour charges for the distribution of rice to the District Administration.

The Commission further observed that the RTI application dated 12.07.2025 was received on 14.07.2025 by the NSDMA, however no reply was given by the PIO even after the expiry of the stipulated time period of 30 days. The information was furnished only on 10.02.2026 after the FAA's hearing and on the direction of the FAA on 04.02.2026. Hence, from the date of receipt of the RTI application dated 12.07.2025 on 14.07.2025 to the date of furnishing the information on 10.02.2026, there was a total of 211 days. Taking into account of the 30 days for the PIO to furnish the information, the number of days of delay becomes $211 - 30 = 181$ days, for which penalty is attracted. However, under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005, since penalty @ Rs. 250 per day of delay is limited to a maximum amount of Rs. 25,000.00, which is for 100 days, the Commission had observed that maximum penalty has been attracted.

DECISION

On the above observations and findings, the Commission decided that:-

1. Shri. Temsuwangshi Jamir, Assistant Manager & PIO, NSDMA shall furnish the following to the applicants(now appellants) and with a copy to the Commission **within 20 (twenty) days** from the date of receipt of this Commission's decision.
 - i) the copies of bills, payment vouchers, receipts, invoices etc.
 - ii) the expenditure on transportation and labour charges for the distribution of rice to the District Administration after obtaining from the respective District Administration.
2. On receipt of the above information, the applicants (now appellants) shall submit satisfaction or non-satisfaction to the PIO and with a copy to the Commission **within 20 (twenty) days** from the date of receipt of the information.
3. Under Section 20 (1) of the RTI Act 2005, penalty at the rate of Rs. 250/- per day of delay for the maximum delay amounting to **Rs. 25,000.00** (Rupees twenty five Thousand only) is imposed on Shri. Temsuwangshi Jamir, Assistant Manager & PIO, NSDMA for contributing to the delay in furnishing the information to the applicants (now appellants) without reasonable cause. The above penalty amount shall be paid **within 20 (twenty) days** from the date of receipt of this decision. Since penalty is imposed personally, the penalty amount shall be deposited into the Government account under his name, designation and signature through **treasury challan** in favour of the Accounts Officer, Nagaland Information Commission, Kohima under the Head of Account given below, with a copy of the **treasury challan** (in original) to this Commission:-

0070 - Other Administrative Services
60 - Other Services
118- Receipts under RTI Act, 2005

Decision pronounced in the presence of both the parties on 27.03.2026 at 11:00 A.M.

Copies be given to:

1. Shri. Sentiwapang Aier, Secretary & FAA, NSDMA, Home Department, Nagaland, Kohima.

2. Shri. Temsuwangshi Jamir, Assistant Manager & PIO, NSDMA, Home Department, Nagaland, Kohima, Mobile No. 8974539125.
3. The Accounts Officer, Nagaland Information Commission for information.
4. The Computer Programmer, Nagaland Information Commission for uploading on the website.
5. The applicants (now appellants), Shri. Inato Chisho, Mobile No. 9863302011, Shri. Boto Y. Swu, Mobile No. 917005409209 & Shri. Zato Sumi, Mobile No. 7085702670.
6. Office Copy.

Sd/-

KEVISA KENSE, IAS (Retd.)

Chief Information Commissioner

Sd/-

Y. P. CHILLIO KHIAM

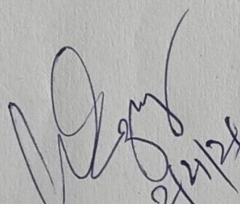
State Information Commissioner

Sd/-

JOSEPH HESSO, IPS (Retd.)

State Information Commissioner

Authenticated true copy:


(Worhonthung Ezung)
Deputy Secretary