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No. NIC/APPEAL-27/2025-26 /129

Dated Kohima, the 18th May, 2026

Appellant : Shri. Suman Dey,
Astha Plaza,
4th Floor, Bora Service,
GS Road, Guwahati – 781007,
Kamrup, Assam,
Email – sumandey@cholamsispl.com,
Mobile No. 7002660791

Respondents : (i) Shri. Elias T. Lotha,
The Transport Commissioner & FAA,
Commissionerate of Motor Vehicles Department,
Nagaland, Kohima.

(ii) Shri. Neiketoulhou Mejura,
District Transport Officer & PIO,
Zunheboto, Nagaland.

(iii) Shri. Bendang Longchar,
District Transport Officer & PIO,
Wokha, Nagaland.

Public Authority : O/o the District Transport Officer, Zunheboto, Nagaland.

Date of hearing : 15.05.2026 at 11:00 AM.

Date of Decision : 18.05.2026

Present:

1. Shri. Elias T. Lotha, Transport Commissioner & FAA, Commissionerate of Motor Vehicles Department, Nagaland, Kohima, Mobile No. 9436011036.
2. Shri. Neiketoulhou Mejura, District Transport Officer & PIO, Zunheboto, Nagaland, Mobile No. 9366434055.
3. Shri. Bendang Longchar, District Transport Officer & PIO, Wokha, Nagaland, Mobile No. 9615136026.
4. The applicant (now appellant), Shri. Suman Dey, Astha Plaza, 4th Floor, Bora Service, GS Road, Guwahati – 781007, Kamrup, Assam, Email – sumandey@cholamsispl.com, Mobile No. 7002660791.

FACT OF THE CASE

An applicant Shri. Suman Dey from Guwahati, Assam had, through speed post bearing Consignment/MO Number ES037159740IN submitted an RTI application dated **07/09/2025**, addressed to the PIO, District Transport Office, Zunheboto, Nagaland, along with an application fee of Rs. 10 paid via IPO No. 66F798373 dated **07/09/2025**, seeking the following information under Section 6 (1) of the RTI Act, 2005:-

(a) Subject matter of required information	Confirmation required if enclosed DL extract was issued from your end.
(b) Specific details of information required	Ref. No. NL/DTO/ZUNHB/125/NOC/2024 DL No. NL/25456/NW/PSV/PROF/14 License Holder Name – SIMANTA SAIKIA
(c) Whether information is required by post or in person	Post
(d) In the case by post (ordinary, registered or speed)	Register Post
(e) Maximum period of providing the information	30 days from the date of receipt of RTI application.

As per the tracking ID enclosed by the applicant, the item was delivered on **29/09/2025**, however on not getting any response to the above RTI application dated **07/09/2025**, the applicant had submitted First Appeal dated **07/10/2025** to the FAA, Commissionerate of Motor Vehicles Department through speed post bearing Consignment/MO Number. ES037167176IN.

On non-response of the above FAA to his First Appeal dated **07/10/2025**, the applicant had submitted Second Appeal dated **18/11/2025** to the Nagaland Information Commission.

On receipt of the above Second Appeal dated **18/11/2025** on **16/12/2025**, the Commission had on **02/02/2026**, directed the FAA to hear the First Appeal by conducting a hearing of both the parties i.e., the PIO concerned and the applicant (now appellant) and submit a copy of the decision on the First Appeal to the Commission within **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of its directive.

In compliance to the Commission's directive dated **02/02/2026**, Shri. Elias T. Lotha, Transport Commissioner & FAA had, vide letter **No.TC/ESTT-RTI/Notice-NIC/306/2014/719-21** dated **10/03/2026**, submitted that the hearing of First Appeal was held on 26/02/2026 at 11:00 AM wherein only the respondent i.e., DTO, Zunheboto attended. During the hearing, *the DTO & PIO, Zunheboto clarified and confirmed that no NOC was issued from their office with reference to letter No. NL/DTO/ZUNHB/125/NOC/2024 dated 18/11/2024. He also stated that the signature appearing on letter No. NL/DTO/ZUNHB/125/NOC/2024 dated 18/11/2024 was also forged and that the entire document was faked and was not issued by their office. He further stated that upon receipt of the applicant's letter No. 3311352543, he responded to the applicant informing that Driving License No. NL/25456/NW/PSV/PROF/14 pertains to the DTO office, Wokha. After the hearing, the FAA directed the DTO, Zunheboto to furnish to the applicant as submitted before the FAA and had also directed the applicant to respond whether he is satisfied or not within a period of 30 (thirty) days from the date of his hearing decision.*

On receipt of the above reply dated **10/03/2026** from the FAA, the Commission had, vide letter of even dated **18/03/2026**, directed the Transport Commissioner & FAA to confirm satisfaction or non-satisfaction of the applicant (now appellant) with the information so furnished to him within **15 (fifteen) days** and inform the Commission for further necessary action.

In compliance to the Commission's directive dated **18/03/2026**, Shri. Elias T. Lotha, Transport Commissioner & FAA had, vide letter **No. TC/ESTT-RTI/Notice-NIC/306/2014/880-81** dated **26/03/2026**, while directing the applicant (now appellant) to confirm satisfaction or non-satisfaction of the information so furnished within **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of issuance of its letter, enclosed a copy of email dated **26/03/2026** received from the applicant

(now appellant) wherein the applicant (now appellant) stated that the information was received and was satisfied.

On examination of the information furnished to the applicant (now appellant), the Commission observed that when the DTO, Zunheboto had, vide reference **No. NL/DTO/ZUNHB-125/NOC/2024** dated **18/11/2024** certified that the DL bearing No. NL/25456/NW/PSV/PROF/14 dated 09/11/2014 was issued by DTO, Zunheboto and was declared genuine, it is not understood as to why the DTO, Zunheboto had, vide letter No. DTO-Z/RTI Act-05/2024-25/696 dated 10.11.2025 transferred the RTI Reference No. 3311352543 regarding DL No. NL/25456/NW/PSV/PROF/14 to DTO, Wokha as the said DL has registering authority of DTO, Wokha.

Since there is discrepancy in the information submitted by the DTO, Zunheboto, the Commission has decided to hear the above mentioned appeal giving opportunity of being heard to all the parties on **15th May 2026(Friday) at 11:00 AM in the Hearing Room of Nagaland Information Commission, Nagaland Commissions' Complex, New Capital Complex, Nagaland, Kohima**, and had directed the following parties to appear before this Commission and also to bring the files and relevant documents in question for scrutiny on the above date and time for hearing.

1. The Transport Commissioner & FAA, Commissionerate of Motor Vehicles Department, Nagaland, Kohima.
2. The District Transport Officer & PIO, Zunheboto, Nagaland.
3. The District Transport Officer & PIO, Wokha, Nagaland.
4. The applicant (now appellant), Shri. Suman Dey, Astha Plaza, 4th Floor, Bora Service, GS Road, Guwahati – 781007, Kamrup, Assam, Email – sumandey@cholamsispl.com, Mobile No. 7002660791.

OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS:

The applicant (now appellant), Shri. Suman Dey appeared for the hearing and informed that he was from the **Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Limited, Guwahati**. He stated that he had filed the instant RTI application dated 07.09.2025 to confirm the authenticity and validity of the Driving License No. NL/25456/NW/PSV/PROF/14 (hereafter the DL) in the name of Late Simanta Saikia since the victim's (Late Simanta Saikia) family had claimed insurance through the Insurance Ombudsman, Guwahati Centre on the basis of a '**fake RTI reply addressed to him (Shri. Suman Dey)**' given by the DTO, Zunheboto vide letter **Ref. No. NL/DTO/ZUNHB/52/RTI/2025 dated 16.10.2025**. A copy of the '**fake RTI reply**' was also produced before the Commission during the hearing.

On being asked by the Commission how the No Objection Certificate (hereafter NOC) regarding the DL was issued by the DTO, Zunheboto when the same DL was issued by DTO, Wokha, Shri. Neiketoulhou Mejura, District Transport Officer & PIO, Zunheboto submitted that on receipt of the RTI application, he had, vide letter No. DTO-Z/RTI Act-05/2024-25/699 dated 26.02.2026 replied to the applicant (now appellant), Shri. Suman Dey stating that the NOC **No. NL/DTO/ZUNHB-125/NOC/2024** dated **18/11/2024** regarding the DL was not issued by his office, hence it was forged. He also stated that he had brought to the notice of the Transport Commissioner by endorsing a copy of his above letter, but had not yet informed to the Police.

Shri. Bendang Longchar, District Transport Officer & PIO, Wokha, Nagaland also stated that he had received the RTI application on 18.11.2025 which was transferred by the DTO, Zunheboto on 10.11.2025, and upon receipt of the RTI application, he had searched for the said

DL but since no records were found at his office, he had requested the Transport Commissioner for a copy of the DL. The DTO, Wokha also explained that when a new DL is issued, Sl. Nos. are given and recorded in a register, however, there is/are no register(s) available in his office where the Serial Number of the DL in question was found recorded and that there are no register(s) even after the particular Sl. No. He further stated that since there is no official record found or available in his office, he had replied to the applicant(now applicant) vide letter No. DTO/W/MV/10-11/2005/1631 dated 21.11.2025 requesting the applicant for a copy of the said DL in order **to proceed for further verification.**

On being enquired by the Commission how the applicant quoted the DL number in his RTI application, the applicant (now appellant) replied that he did not possess the DL, but got the DL number from the NOC (issued and declared genuine by the DTO, Zunheboto) which was mentioned and produced to the court (Insurance Ombudsman).

The Commission observed that under Section 6 (3) of the RTI Act, 2005, RTI application should have been transferred within five (5) days upon receipt, however, the DTO, Zunheboto had transferred the RTI application to DTO, Wokha only on 10.11.2025, i.e. **after 42 days**. Also, there was considerable delay on the part of the DTO, Zunheboto in replying to the RTI application to the applicant (now appellant). The RTI application dated 07.09.2025 was received by Speed Post at Zunheboto on 29.09.2025 as per tracking ID enclosed by the applicant and the DTO, Zunheboto had replied only on 26.02.2026 i.e. **after 150 days**.

The Transport Commissioner & FAA requested the Commission if the penalty regarding the delay can be considered only after the final outcome of the case, to which the Commission agreed. He also stated that the said DL format and the letters were not the prescribed format which the department uses.

During the hearing, on the above submissions of the Transport Commissioner & FAA; DTO, Zunheboto; DTO, Wokha and the applicant (now appellant), the Commission observed that there is a benefit of doubt regarding the DL, however, since neither the DTO, Wokha nor the applicant (now appellant) possess the said DL, proper verification could not be done.

DECISION

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

1. Since Shri. Bendang Longchar, District Transport Officer & PIO, Wokha, Nagaland had already written to the applicant (now appellant) on 21.11.2025 for a copy of the DL for further verification, the applicant (now appellant) shall obtain a copy of the DL from the court (Insurance Ombudsman, Guwahati Centre) and submit to the DTO, Wokha alongwith a copy to the Commission **within fifteen (15) days** from the date of receipt of this decision.
2. On receipt of the said DL from the applicant (now appellant), Shri. Bendang Longchar, District Transport Officer & PIO, Wokha, Nagaland shall, after due verification submit verification report to the applicant (now appellant) and with a copy to the Commission **within fifteen (15) days** from the date of receipt of the DL.

Decision pronounced in the presence of both the parties on 15.05.2026 at 11:00 AM.

Copies be given to:

1. Shri. Elias T. Lotha, Transport Commissioner & FAA, Commissionerate of Motor Vehicles Department, Nagaland, Kohima, Mobile No. 9436011036.
2. Shri. Neiketoulhou Mejura, District Transport Officer & PIO, Zunheboto, Nagaland, Mobile No. 9366434055.

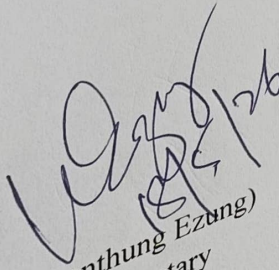
3. Shri. Bendang Longchar, District Transport Officer & PIO, Wokha, Nagaland, Mobile No. 9615136026.
4. The Computer Programmer, Nagaland Information Commission for uploading on the website.
5. The applicant (now appellant), Shri. Suman Dey, Astha Plaza, 4th Floor, Bora Service, GS Road, Guwahati - 781007, Kamrup, Assam, Email - sumandey@cholamsispl.com, Mobile No. 7002660791.
6. Office Copy.

Sd/-
KEVISA KENSE (IAS Retd.)
Chief Information Commissioner

Sd/-
JOSEPH HESSO, IPS (Retd.)
State Information Commissioner

Sd/-
Y. P. CHILLIO KHIAM
State Information Commissioner

Authenticated true copy:


(Worhonthung Ezung)
Deputy Secretary