

# The Right to Information Commission

J. Yoosuf,  
Ayurvedic Research Hospital,  
Arasadithottam,  
Nintavur

**RTIC App/No : - 337/2021**

**-Appellant-**  
Vs.

Provincial Department of Indigenous  
Medicine,  
Eastern Province,  
Inner Harbour Road,  
Trincomalee

**-Public Authority-**

**Before :**

1. Justice Rohini Walgama (Rtd.) - Commissioner
2. Ms. Kishali Pinto Jayawardena (Attorney-at-Law) - Commissioner
3. Mr. Jagath Liyana Arachchi (Attorney-at-Law) - Commissioner

**Appearance :** The Appellant is present.

The Public Authority participated via Zoom Technology. Ms. Sivawadana Navindraraja, Administrative Officer (Information Officer)

**Written Submission**

The Appellant on : Not submitted

The Public Authority on : Not submitted

**Date of Hearing :** 22.03.2022

**Decided on :** 22.03.2022

## **Decision**

### **Brief Factual Background:**

**The Appellant by request dated 10.10.2019 requested the following information;**

*“In response to the complaint made by me against the appointment of the Officer-in-Charge of the Addalaichenai, Ayurvedic Base Hospital / Medical Superintendent I received a letter dated 02.02.2018 which was sent by Department of Indigenous Medicine to the Kalmunai Regional Human Rights Commission as a response to the inquiry conducted by the Regional Human Rights Commission; The letter included the following documents:*

- *Request Letter made by the Commissioner of Indigenous medicine EP/IM/ADM/H/MO dated 2017/10/31 addressed Trincomalee , Utthuraimuga street, Department of Indigenous Medicine*
- *Response letters by the Secretary, Ministry of Health, and Eastern Province by letter No. Ep / 04 / EB / 02/01 dated 30/10/2017 to the response made by the Commissioner of Indigenous medicine.*
- *There is a confusion and discrepancy in dates of said correspondences. I ask you to explain the reason for this.”*

The Information Officer responded through a letter dated 23.10.2019 stating that;

As you have requested to clarify the confusion and discrepancy in the dates mentioned in the letters as mentioned in your request, the Kalmunai Regional Human Rights Commission has provided the clarifications for your request in person and by the letter dated 24.12.2018 in writing. If you need further clarifications on this matter please inquire from the Kalmunai Regional Human Rights Commission.

Dissatisfied with the response of the Information Officer, the Appellant lodged an Appeal with the Designated Officer dated 04.11.2019 .The DO failed to respond within the time period stipulated in the Act, the Appellant preferred an appeal to the Commission dated 29.12.2019.

### **Consideration:**

The Information Officer clarified to the Commission that the discrepancy in the dates of the request letter made by the Commissioner of Indigenous Medicine dated 31.10.2017 and the response letters by the Secretary, Ministry of Health, and Eastern Province dated 30.10.2017 was due to a typographical error.

The Commission informs the Information Officer that this same response could have been given to the Appellant in the response of the Information Officer dated 23.10.2019, replying to information request dated 10.10.2019 without stating extraneous facts not relevant to the information request. The Information Officer is warned to attend to information requests sent to the Public Authority under the Right to Information Act No. 12 of 2016 expeditiously and with due diligence.

The Director-General is directed to convey the Order to the Appellant, the Information Officer and the Public Authority.

Appeal concluded.