

# PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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**Sh. Inderbir Singh Arora(9815101001)**

H.No.239, Cheema Nagar,  
Mithapur Road,  
Jalandhar City.

Appellant

Versus

**Show-Cause**

**Public Information Officer**

**(Regd. Post)** O/o MC, Jalandhar

Encl. RTI application

**First Appellate Authority**

O/o Commissioner, MC, Jalandhar

Respondent

**Appeal Case No.: 101 of 2023**

**Hearing through CISCO Webex**

**Present:** Appellant: Sh. Karambir Singh Chawla, Advocate (9417007700) on behalf of the appellant

Respondent: Absent

## ORDER

1. The above mentioned case was earlier fixed for 04.05.2023 which was preponed for today i.e. 29.03.2023 on the request of the appellant vide letter dated 27.02.2023, which was received in the Commission vide diary no. 5595 dated 28.02.2023.
2. In today's hearing, representative of the appellant, Sh. Karambir Singh Chawla states that requisite information is still pending even after filing first appeal, there was no response from the First Appellate Authority. He adds that after filing second appeal, respondent PIO awakened but irrelevant reply has been supplied by the respondent PIO.
3. Respondent PIO is absent in spite of registered post notices issued to him by the Commission, which means he has no regard to the notices of the Commission as no communication is received from respondent PIO after issuing two notices of hearing dated 04.05.2023 and 29.03.2023.
4. The absence of the PIO is viewed seriously and it has also affected hearing and disposal of the case. In pursuance of this, the PIO is directed to file a written submission in response to the Notice of the Commission and should present this case personally (through cisco webex), on the next date of hearing, failing which penal consequences shall follow.
5. In view of the foregoing, **respondent PIO, O/o MC, Jalandhar is directed to show cause** in writing or through affidavit under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, as to why penalty be not imposed upon him for willful delay/ denial of the information to the RTI applicant and why the compensation be not awarded to the complainant under Section 19 (8)(b) of the Act for detriment suffered.

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In addition to his submission, the PIO is also hereby given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso, thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may note that in case he does not file his submission and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date fixed, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission shall proceed to take further proceedings against him ex-parte.

6. Matter is **fixed for further hearing on 02.05.2023 at 11:00 AM at Punjab State Information Commission at Chandigarh** along with directions to both the parties to bring the relevant documents in connection with instant appeal case so that case could be concluded accordingly, failing which case will be decided on merit basis. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

**Date: 29.03.2023**

**(Anumit Singh Sodhi)**  
**State Information Commissioner**  
**Punjab**