



Shri Amarjit Singh Dhamotia,
NCAG office, Street Number 05,
1331-5, Vishvkarma Bhawan,
Down Canal Road, Simlapuri, Ludhiana.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer
O/o Principal Secretary,
Local Bodies Department, Punjab,
Sector35-A, Chandigarh.

Public Information Officer
O/o Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority
O/o Principal Secretary,
Local Bodies Department, Punjab,
Sector35-A, Chandigarh.

....Respondents

AC No. 3332 of 2022

Present: (i) **Shri Amarjit Singh Dhamotia, the Appellant along with his representative Shri Gurmej Lal - through webex.**
(ii) **None on behalf of the PIO/Respondent.**

ORDER

(Heard in person/through cisco webex)

1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 01.09.2022 passed by this Bench on the previous hearing.
2. The case has been heard today. Shri Amarjit Singh Dhamotia, appellant comes present to attend the hearing through cisco webex. He states that till date, no information has been received by him.
3. Neither the PIO O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana has come present to attend hearing in person before the Bench nor through cisco webex nor any information has been supplied to the appellant. This indifferent attitude and casual approach of the PIO towards the directions of the Bench is viewed adversely.
4. The PIO O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana is issued show cause notice to explain his absence and as to why action should not be taken against him and also as to why penalty should not be imposed in the instant case for failing to appear for the hearing and for not supplying information to the appellant. He is also directed to file a written reply to the show cause notice as to why the appellant should not be compensated for the mental harassment suffered by him in getting the information.

5. In addition to the written reply, the PIO is hereby given an opportunity u/s 20(1) proviso thereto for personal hearing before the imposition of such a penalty, on the next date of hearing. He may take note that in case he does not file the written reply 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.

5. The PIO O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana is directed to ensure to supply requisite information to the appellant under intimation to the Commission before the next hearing as also to come present in person before the Bench, failing which the Bench will be constrained to issue bailable warrant to the PIO to ensure his presence before the Bench on the next hearing.

6. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 10.11.2022 at 11.30 AM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

**Chandigarh
11.10.2022**

**Sd/-
(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma (Retd))
State Information Commissioner, Punjab**

Copy to (By Regd. Post)

**Public Information Officer,
O/o The Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.**