

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

**Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.**

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Sh Amit Kakkar,
Civil Court Complex,
Jalalabad (West), Distt. Fazilka.

... Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Director,
Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs,
Anaj Bhawan, Sector-39-C, Chandigarh.

...Respondent

Complaint Case No. 1166 of 2021

**PRESENT: None for the Appellant
 Mrs. Kiran, Inspector, for the Respondent**

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 04.12.2020, has sought information regarding the weight of empty gunny bags deducted from the wheat distributed for three months under Prime Minister Garib KalyanYojna and the retaining of empty bags by depot holders and other information as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of Director, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Pb Chandigarh. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed the first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 17.09.2021, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case first came up for hearing on 02.03.2022 through video conferencing at DAC Fazilka/ Chandigarh. The respondent present informed that the information has been provided to the appellant vide letter dated 15.11.2021.

The appellant claimed that the information has been provided with a delay of more than eleven months.

The Commission having taken a serious view of this issued a **show cause notice to the PIO under section 20 of the RTI Act 2005 for not supplying the information within the statutorily prescribed period of time and directed to file reply on an affidavit.**

The case last came up for hearing on 01.08.2022 through video conferencing at DAC Fazilka/ Chandigarh. Both the parties were absent.

Having gone through the available record in the file, the Commission found that the RTI has been sufficiently replied to. However, the PIO had not filed his reply to the show cause notice. The Commission, granting the last opportunity, directs Shri Ajaiveer Singh Sarao, PIO-cum-Joint Director, Food Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Punjab, Chandigarh, to file a reply to the show cause notice in the shape of an affidavit on the non-judicial stamp paper duly attested by the Public Notary.

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Hearing dated 10.10.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today. As per the respondent, in pursuance of the previous order of the Commission, the PIO has filed a reply to the show cause notice wherein the PIO has stated that the delay was caused as a consequence of prevalence of Covid-19 pandemic in the office and restrictions of presence of 50% staff imposed during the pandemic. The PIO further mentioned in the reply that during period of Covid-19 the Govt. of India introduced Pradhan Mantri Grib Kalyan Yojna, Atam Nirbhar Bhart Scheme and Covid kits etc. in which the staff was engaged in the implementation of these schemes. Due to this, the delay in supplying the information to the appellant occurred.

I accept the plea of the PIO and drop the show cause.

The appellant is absent and nor is represented to pursue the case.

Information stands provided. No more interference of the Commission in the instant case is required and hence, **the case is disposed of and closed.**

Sd/-

**Chandigarh
Dated 10.10.2022**

**(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commissioner**

Cc to :

**Shri Ajaiveer Singh Sarao,
Public Information Officer-cum
Joint Director, Food Supplies,
And Consumer Affairs, Punjab.
Anaj Bhawan, Sector 39-C,
Chandigarh.**