

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Shri Neeraj Kumar, Advocate &
Shri Suraj Kumar, Advocate
C/o Chamber No.4020, Lawyers Chambers
Complex Part-II, District Courts,
Ludhiana.

... Appellants

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Chief Administrator,
GLADA, Ludhiana.

(Bailable Warrant)

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Chief Administrator,
GLADA, Ludhiana.

.....Respondent

Appeal Case No. 3065 of 2022

Present:- (i) **Shri Neeraj Kumar and Shri Suraj Kumar, Appellants, in person.**
(ii) **None on behalf of PIO, GLADA, Ludhiana.**

ORDER

1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 31.08.2022 passed by this Bench on the previous hearing.
2. The case has been heard today. Shri Neeraj Kumar and Shri Suraj Kumar, appellants come present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench. They state that no information has been supplied by the PIO so far.
3. Neither the PIO O/o GLADA, Ludhiana has come present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench nor through cisco webex nor he has deputed any of his representatives to attend the hearing on behalf of the PIO. However, an e.mail dated 08.10.2022 has been received from the PIO stating that it is third party information and the same has been reiterated.
4. The Bench observes that the PIO has absented himself for the hearing for the second consecutive time. The PIO was issued show cause notice to which no reply has been filed. The contention of the PIO regarding third party information was not accepted during the previous hearing and he was directed to supply information, however, the PIO has failed to comply with the directions of the Bench. This indifferent attitude and causal approach of the PIO towards the directions of the Bench is viewed adversely.

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5. The facts of the case prove beyond any doubt that the PIO does not deserve any leniency. Hence, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, **a penalty to the tune of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) is imposed upon PIO,O/o Chief Administrator, GLADA, Ludhiana**, to be deducted from his salary, which is to be deposited in the State under the relevant head. The Drawing & Disbursing Officer concerned is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs.5,000/- from the salary of the PIO and deposit the same in State Treasury in the following Head of Account and to report its compliance to the Commission before the next hearing:-

- 0070-Other Administrative Services – 60-Other Services-

-0800-Other Receipts- 86-Fee under the RTI Act, 2005.

6. The PIO is also directed to supply requisite information to the appellant and file reply to the Show Cause Notice as also to produce evidence for having deposited the penalty in the State Treasury, before the next date of hearing.

7. Since the appellant has failed to attend the second consecutive hearing, **the Bench is constrained to issue Bailable Warrant to the PIO O/o GLADA, Ludhiana to ensure his presence before the Bench on the next hearing.**

8. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 09.11.2022 at 11.30 AM in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

**Chandigarh
10.10.2022**

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

Copy to (By Regd. Post)

**Public Information Officer,
O/o Chief Administrator, GLADA, Ludhiana.**