

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,
SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.

Ph: 0172-2864116, Email: - psic26@punjabmail.gov.in

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Helpline No.0172-2864100(From 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM on working days)



Shri Gurdial Singh,
H.No.1633, Phase-10,
S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali).

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Amritsar Development Authority,
Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Additional Chief Administrator,
Amritsar Development Authority,
Amritsar.

....Respondents

AC No. 123 of 2023

Present: (i) **Shri Gurdial Singh, Appellant- in person.**
(ii) **None on behalf of the PIO/Respondent.**

ORDER:

1. The RTI application is dated 24.06.2022 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) on 29.08.2022 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 23.12.2022 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).

2. The notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 06.03.2023. Accordingly, the case has been heard today. Shri Gurdial Singh, appellant comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench and states that the intimation has been supplied to him but the same is not in consonance with the RTI application filed by him.

3. Neither the PIO/Amritsar Development Authority, Amritsar 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 PIO. This indifferent attitude and casual approach of the PIO being adopted towards the Commission is viewed adversely.

4. The PIO O/o Amritsar Development Authority, Amritsar 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 not supplying requisite 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.

6. The PIO is directed to call the appellant to his office and allow him access to the relevant official records. The point-wise information as is identified by the appellant be provided before the next hearing. He is also directed to ensure to come present in person before the Bench on the next hearing, failing which the Bench will be constrained to issue BAILABLE WARRANT to ensure his presence before the Bench on the next hearing..

7. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 10.05.2023 at 11.30 AM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Sd/-

**Chandigarh
06.03.2023**

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

Copy to(By Regd.Post):

Public Information Officer O/o ADA, Amritsar.