

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Sh. Lajpat Rai Garg(9814230616)

Complainant

s/o Sh. Harbans Lal

R/o Romana Street, Jaito,

Tehsil Jaito, Distt. Faridkot.

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o EO, Nagar Council, Mansa

Respondent

Complaint case No.: 124 of 2022

Through CISCO WEBEX

Present: (i) Complainant: Sh. Lajpat Rai Garg

(ii) Respondent: Absent

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 07.12.2022.
2. In today's hearing the complainant is present but nobody appears on behalf of the respondent, which is taken seriously by the court.
3. The complainant states that the discrepancies pointed out by him are still to be removed by the respondent department since sufficient time has elapsed even after the directions of the Commission.
4. From the material on record, it transpires that there has been unnecessary delay in conveying the correct State of affairs to the appellant in respect to his request for information. No explanation for delay has been given by him. Rather, his failure to even respond to the directions issued to him by the Commission reinforces the fact that he has been without any reasonable cause guilty of remissness in the discharge of his duties, therefore, deserves to be penalized.
5. In view of the defying attitude of the concerned respondent PIO, Regional Transport Authority, Patiala neither attending the court nor submitting any explanation for the directions issued to him within the time schedule as prescribed under the RTI Act 2005, the court comes to a logical conclusion that it is a fit case for the **imposition of penalty amounting to Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five thousand only) upon the concerned respondent PIO.** However, taking a lenient view, I impose a penalty of Rs. 5,000/- (Rs. Five thousand only) on the respondent PIO. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the office of RTA, Patiala is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs. 5000/- from the salary of the concerned respondent PIO and be deposited in the State Treasury in the following Head of Account and to report its compliance to the Commission:-

"0070-Other Administrative Services

60 other Services

800-Other Receipts

86-Fee under the RTI Act, 2005

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6. Respondent PIO is also directed to submit reply to the show cause which was issued to him vide order dated 20.09.2022.
7. Both the parties are directed to appear in person on the next date of hearing along with relevant documents to represent this case to clear the facts of this case.
8. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on **02.05.2023 at 11.30 AM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh**. Copies of the orders be sent to the concerned parties.

Date: 22.03.2023

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