

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,
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Helpline No.0172-2864100(From 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM on working days)

Shri Parveen Kumar, S/o Shri Babu Ram,
Village Arniwala Wajira, P.O Phulu Khera,
Tehsil Malout, Distt:Sri Mukatsar Sahib.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer
O/o Tehsildar,
Malout, Sri Mukatsar Sahib.

First Appellate Authority
O/o Tehsildar,
Malout, Sri Mukatsar Sahib.

....Respondents

AC No. 1253 of 2023

Present: i) **Shri Vikul Puri, Advocate on behalf of the appellant-in person.**
ii) **None on behalf of the respondent.**

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 08.05.2023 passed by this Bench during the previous hearing.
2. The appellant authorizes Shri Vikul Puri, Advocate on his behalf for today's hearing. The representative of the appellant states that a copy of letter dated 26.05.2022 has been received by the appellant from the department mentioning therein that information pertaining to point nos. 1 to 6 cannot be provided as no public interest is involved in seeking the information and partial information has been provided on point no. 7. He further adds that the appellant has sought information in public interest as there is high level scam involved in the department while filling up the posts on the basis of fake Backward class certificates. Certain candidates have obtained the jobs on the basis of fake certificates of belonging to Backward Class.
3. Neither the PIO O/o Tehsildar, Malout, Sri Mukatsar Sahib has come present in person nor through cisco webex nor he has deputed any of his representatives to attend the hearing nor complete information has been supplied to the appellant. The PIO was also not present during the previous hearing. This indifferent attitude of the PIO is viewed adversely.
4. The Bench, on perusal of the reply, observes that the appellant has been denied information on the basis of information sought being third party information. However, post deliberations with the appellant, it emerges that the issue raised by the appellant is in the larger public interest. As such, the Bench over-rules the contention of the PIO regarding denying the same to the appellant.
5. In view of the above, the PIO is directed to supply point wise information to the appellant. However, any document which is construed to contain personal information, can be withheld and rest of the documents be provided to the appellant before the next date of hearing.
6. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. Since I am demitting the office on 4th August 2023 and I am left with little time to hear the case further, this case file is sent to the Deputy Registrar to place this case file before the Hon'ble Chief Information Commissioner for re-allocation of the instant appeal case to another Bench.

Sd/-

Chandigarh
04.07.2023

(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma (Retd))
State Information Commissioner