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Shri K. N. S Sodhi, (M:98720-70863),
1634, Sector 70,
SAS Nagar (Mohali)

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Director, Local Govt. Deptt., Punjab,
Sector 34-A, Chandigarh.

Public Information Officer

O/o Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation,
SAS Nagar, Mohali.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Director, Local Govt. Deptt. Punjab,
Sector 34-A, Chandigarh.

....Respondents

AC No. 1287 of 2022

Present:

- (i) Shri K.N.S Sodhi appellant in person.
- (ii) Shri Sunil Kumar Sharma, PIO –cum- Executive Engineer, O/o MC, SAS Nagar along with Shri Gurvinder Singh, SDO, O/o MC SAS Nagar, in person.
- (iii) Shri Kamaldeep Singh, Executive Engineer, O/o M.C. SAS Nagar- in person.
- (iv) Mrs. Avneet Kaur, Executive Engineer, Municipal Corporation, Patiala-in person.

ORDER

1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 03.01.2023 passed by this Bench on the previous hearing.
2. The case has been heard today. Shri K.N.S. Sodhi, appellant comes present in person before the Bench and reiterates his version as made during the previous hearing regarding the receipt of letter dated 30.12.2022, however, states that no documents relating to the development work and installation of fountains/ musical fountains have been provided and alleges that no such record is being maintained by the public authority.
3. Shri Sunil Sharma, Executive Engineer/ PIO along with Shri Gurvinder Singh, SDO, comes present in person before the Bench and states that point-wise information, as existing in the official records relating to fountains/musical fountains, stands given to the appellant vide letter dated 30.12.2022.
4. Mrs.Avneet Kaur, Executive Engineer, Municipal Corporation, Patiala and Shri Kamaldeep Singh, Executive Engineer, Municipal Corporation, Mohali though not concerned with processing of RTI applications currently, were directed to appear before the Bench to clarify allegations of high handedness, unresponsiveness and corruption levelled against them by the appellant.
5. The Bench, during the course of hearing, apprises Mrs. Avneet Kaur, Executive Engineer, M.C. Patiala regarding the allegation of inappropriate behaviour levelled by the appellant. She states that the inputs relating to the information asked for are given to the PIO by the concerned Wings/Branches of the

Municipal Corporation and the reply on the basis of the same is given to the appellant in accordance with the provisions under the RTI Act. Nothing personal is involved in such replies given to the appellant. However, in case, appellant has felt offended on any response given by her, she apologises to him. She also clarifies that she has never met the appellant in person before today's hearing.

6. On the asking of the Bench, Shri Kamaldeep Singh, Executive Engineer, Municipal Corporation, Mohali clarifies allegations relating to corruption levelled against him by the appellant before the Bench that in case of any development work, the Finance & Contract Committee of Municipal Corporation grants approval, only after which tender to get the work executed is called. However, in the present case, no approval was accorded. Accordingly, neither any tender has been called for nor any work order has been issued. He further states that the entire process is available on the website of the Municipal Corporation which also includes the installation of various fountains/musical fountains installed by the Municipal Corporation and there can be no wrong doing whatsoever.

7. On the asking of Bench, the PIO/Executive Engineer, Shri Sunil Sharma clarifies that since no tendering was done, thus, no order for execution of work relating to installation of fountains/musical fountains was placed and that the information as available in the official records has been supplied to the appellant.

8. The Bench, on perusal of the submissions of the appellant and hearing the version of the PIO/XEN, Shri Sunil Sharma and Shri Kamaldeep Singh, observes that the information as available in the official records stands supplied to the appellant. Now, the Bench directs the PIO to file an affidavit on e-stamp paper, within 21 (Twenty one) days, duly signed by the PIO and attested by the Notary Public to the effect that the information as available in the official records in AC No.1287/2022 has been supplied to the appellant. It be further stated that the information supplied is true and correct and nothing has been concealed therein. Original affidavit be sent to the appellant and copy of the same be sent to the Commission for record.

9. Since the appellant has levelled allegations of corruption in the installation of fountains/musical fountains, it turns out to be a serious accusation and a matter of concern. The Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Local Government is directed to have the matter looked into and investigated in the public interest.

10. With the aforesaid directions, **the instant appeal case is disposed off and closed.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh
08.02.2023

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

Copy to(By Regd.Post)

The Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Local Government, Municipal Bhawan, Sector-35, Chandigarh. He should look into the matter as regards the functioning of Municipal Corporation, Mohali, especially with regard to the allegations of appellant as mentioned in the order, as above.