



Sh. Dilbag Singh,
#363, Sector 71,
Mohali.

... Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Punjab Small Industries &
Export Corporation Ltd,
Udyog Bhawan, Sector 17,
Chandigarh

...Respondent

Complaint Case No. 0153 of 2022

PRESENT: Sh. Dilbag Singh, the complainant
Sh. R.K.Jindal-General Manager-cum-PIO for the respondent

ORDER:

The complainant through an RTI application dated 18.02.2021 has sought 07 point information to provide names & designation of members of 3 member committee, Nodal Officer in the said committee, name & authority who has approved above referred committee and other information as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of the Director of Health & Family Welfare, Punjab, Chandigarh. The complainant was not provided with the information after which the complainant filed a complaint in the Commission on 25.03.2022.

The case last came up for hearing on 21.07.2022. The respondent present pleaded that requisite information has been supplied to the complainant.

The complainant claimed that the PIO has supplied incomplete and incorrect information.

The Bench observed that there is a delay of more than one year in attending the RTI application. Therefore, **a show cause notice under section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005, was issued to PIO O/o Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation, as to why penalty be not imposed upon him/her for willful delay and denial in providing the information to the complainant.** The PIO was directed to file a reply on an affidavit. The PIO was directed to file a point-wise reply to the RTI Application and also reply to the show cause notice before the next date of hearing.

Hearing dated 01.11.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today. The respondent PIO has filed a reply to the show cause notice dated 31.10.2022, which has been taken on record. In the reply, it has been mentioned by the PIO that they received the RTI application on 25.02.2021 and since the information relates to the Personnel and Estate wing of the department, the said application was forwarded to these sections with the request to furnish the requisite information directly to the appellant. However, the Personnel wing of the Corporation supplied the information to the appellant relating to points 1 to 6 vide letter dated 29.04.2022 and the information on point 7 being personal information was denied under section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act., hence the delay was on the part of Personnel wing.

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As per the respondent, the delay in providing the information has been caused due to the following-

- (i) the prevailing Covid pandemic due to which the offices were not working at full strength;
- (ii) the information related to a vigilance enquiry (No.3 of 2018) in which Hon'ble CM Pb had constituted a Committee of three IAS officers, who submitted the report, but the file in question remained in movement at different levels.

The case is adjourned. To come up for hearing on **23.11.2022** at **11.00 AM** at Chandigarh.

Chandigarh
Dated:01.11.2022

Sd/-
(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commissioner