



Sh. Suraj Parkash S/o Sh. Bhagwan Chand
#162/2, Chabutra Mohalla, Tehsil Banga
District Nawanshahar.

... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Director,
Social Justice and Minority Department, Punjab,
SCO 1, Phase 1, SAS Nagar

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Director,
Social Justice and Minority Department, Punjab,
SCO 1, Phase 1, SAS Nagar

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 1823 of 2021

PRESENT: None for the Appellant
Sh.Hardeep Singh, Sr. Assistant for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through the RTI application dated 29.12.2020, has sought information regarding the details of the vacant posts filled in the general category by de-reserving SC/BC category posts – date of de-reserving the posts – proposal approved by the departments – a copy of the notification to de-reserve the posts and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of Director, Social Justice & Minority Department of Punjab. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed the first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 20.02.2021, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case was first heard on 04.10.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahar/Mohali. As per the appellant, the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent present pleaded that since the information relates to the Social Welfare Branch-1, (Reservation Cell), Department of Social Justice and Minority, Punjab, Chandigarh, the RTI application has been transferred to them under section 6(3) of the RTI Act vide their letter dated 03.02.2022.

Having gone through the record, the Commission observed that the RTI application was filed on 29.12.2020 and the PIO has transferred the RTI application to the concerned PIO only on 03.02.2021, which should have been transferred within five days of its receipt. The Commission having taken a serious view of this issued a **shows cause notice to the PIO under section 20 of the RTI Act for not attending to the RTI application within the statutory prescribed time and directed to file reply on an affidavit.**

The PIO- Social Welfare Department Branch-1, (Reservation Cell) Department of Social Justice and Minority Department, Punjab, Chandigarh was impleaded in the case and directed to look at the RTI application transferred by the PIO O/o Director Social Justice & Minority, Punjab, Mohali vide letter vide letter 03.02.2021 and provide information to the appellant within 15 days of the receipt of the order otherwise the Commission will be constrained to take action against the PIO under Section 20 of the RTI Act. A copy of the RTI application is being attached with the order.

On the date of last hearing on 28.07.2022, the appellant was absent nor represented.

The respondent present pleaded that point-wise information has been provided to the appellant vide letter dated 02.03.2022.

Having gone through the record, the Commission observed that PIO has not filed the reply to the show cause notice issued to the PIO. One last opportunity was given to the PIO to file the file reply to the show cause notice in the shape of an affidavit before the next date of hearing.

Hearing dated 30.11.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC, Nawanshahar. As per the respondent, the information has already been provided to the appellant.

The appellant is absent on 2nd consecutive hearing nor is represented.

The Commission has received a reply to the show cause notice from the PIO, which has been taken on record. It has been mentioned in the reply that they received the RTI application from the office of the Director of Social Justice and Minority Department vide letter dated 03.02.2021. Due to the Covid-19 epidemic and the 50% attendance of staff in the offices during that period, the information could not be provided on time. Further, since the information was related to 16 different departments, the RTI application was further transferred to them, asking them to send the information concerning their office, and after receipt of the information, the complete information was sent to the appellant on 11.01.2022 and 16.03.2022.

Having gone through the reply, I accept the plea of the PIO and drop the show cause notice.

The information stands provided. No further interference of the Commission is required. The case is **disposed of and closed**.

Chandigarh
Dated 30.11.2022

Sd/-
(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commissioner