

**PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,
SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.**



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Shri Sanjeev Thakur
S/o Baldev Singh Salaria,
R/o Mohalla Rajput Nagar,
Village Gurha Khurd,
PO Madhopur Cantt.
Pathankot-145024.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Ranjit Sagar Dam,
Shahpur Kandi Township,
Pathankot.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Ranjit Sagar Dam,
Shahpur Kandi Township,
Pathankot.

....Respondents

AC No. 207 of 2023

- Present:**
- i) **Shri Rahul Dev Singh on behalf of Shri Sanjeev Thakur, Appellant-in person.**
 - ii) **Shri Himanshu Verma, SDO, Shri Ashok Kumar, Supervisor, Personnel Division, and Shri Karan Singh, SDO, Township Division, O/o R.S.D. Shahpur Kandi Township- in person.**

ORDER:

1. The RTI application is dated 10.07.2022 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First Appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) on 26.09.2022 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 02.01.2023 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).
2. The notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 28.02.2023. Accordingly, the case has been heard today. Shri Rahul Dev Singh comes present in person before the Bench to attend the hearing on behalf of the appellant Sanjeev Thakur. He states that no information has been provided to the appellant.
3. Shri Himanshu Verma, SDO, Shri Ashok Kumar, Supervisor, Personnel Division, and Shri Karan Singh, SDO, Township Division, O/o R.S.D. Shahpur Kandi Township come present in person before the Bench to attend the hearing on behalf of the PIO. Shri Ashok Kumar states that the appellant has sought information about one Harbhajan Singh, SDO, Township Division, RSD Shahpur Kandi and his RTI application was transferred to PIO, Township Division who has submitted point-wise reply to the RTI application. As per his reply, the appellant has been informed vide letter dated 10.08.2022 stating that the information sought by him is personal and third party information and the said Harbhajan Singh has also made written submissions refusing consent to share information about him being personal and third party.

4. The Bench observes that reply form PIO/Dams-cum-Personnel Division No.II, Shahpur Kandi Township is available in the case file received by post. On the asking of the Bench, the respondents hand over a copy of the same to the representative of appellant in the court itself. The respondents also make mention of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No.10044 of 2010 titled as Central Public Information Officer, Supreme Court of India vs. Subhash Chandra Aggarwal, based on which the Govt. of Punjab has issued instruction vide letter dated 09.08.2021 detailing therein the matters which constitute personal and third party information and the same is protected from sharing with general public.

5. On perusing the reply, the representative of appellant contends the version of the respondents and alleges that the said officer Shri Harbhjan Singh does not fulfil the qualification for the post of SDO and he has managed to secure job by playing fraud and as such, the appellant has sought qualification certificates of the said officer.

6. The Bench peruses the Govt. instructions dated 09.08.2021 and also hears the version of the respondents and the representative of appellant. The Bench though agrees with the contention raised by the respondents, but in view of the submissions made by the representative of appellant, directs the PIO to provide copies of educational certificates of the said Harbhajan Singh before next hearing. However, the copy of service book which contains personal and official details, be withheld.

7. The PIO is also directed to ensure to come present in person before the Bench on the next date of hearing.

8. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 04.05.2023 at 11.30 AM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

**Chandigarh
28.02.2023**

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