

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Sh. Manjinder Singh (98720-15069)

2469, Sunny Enclave,

Sector 125, Kharar, District Mohali (140301)

Appellant

Versus

(Regd. Post)

Public Information Officer,

O/o Secretary,

Regional Transport Authority,

Faridkot.

(Regd. Post)

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Secretary,

Regional Transport Authority,

Faridkot.

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 2348 of 2022

Through CISCO WEBEX

Present:

(i) Appellant: Sh. Manjinder Singh

(ii) Respondent: Absent

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 31.01.2023.
2. In today's hearing the appellant is present but nobody appears on behalf of the respondent, which is taken seriously by the court.
3. The appellant states that no information has been supplied to him yet.
4. From the material on record, it transpires that there has been unnecessary delay in supplying the information to the appellant. No explanation for delay or reply to the show cause notice has been filed by the PIO concerned before the Bench till date. Rather, PIO has failed to even respond to the directions issued to him by the Commission reinforces the fact that he has been without any reasonable cause guilty of remissness in the discharge of his duties, therefore, deserves to be penalized.
5. In view of the defying attitude of the concerned respondent PIO, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot neither attending the court nor submitting any explanation for the directions issued to him within the time schedule as prescribed under the RTI Act 2005, the court comes to a logical conclusion that it is a fit case for the imposition of penalty amounting to Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) upon the concerned respondent PIO. However, taking a lenient view, **I impose a penalty of Rs. 10,000/- (Rs. Ten Thousand Only) on the respondent PIO.** The Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the office of RTA, Faridkot is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs. 10,000/- from the salary of the concerned respondent PIO and be deposited in the State Treasury in the following Head of Account and to report its compliance to the Commission:-
"0070-Other Administrative Services
60 other Services
800-Other Receipts
86-Fee under the RTI Act, 2005
6. Respondent PIO is also directed to submit reply to the show cause which was issued to him vide order dated 31.01.2023.
7. Both the parties are directed to appear in person on the next date of hearing to represent this case for clarifying the facts of this case.
8. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on **30.05.2023 at 11.00 AM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the orders be sent to the concerned parties.

Dated: 05.04.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab