

**PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**  
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(Regd. Post)	<b>Sh. Manjinder Singh (9872015069)</b> # 2469, Sunny Enclave, Sector 125, Kharar, Distt. Mohali	Appellant
	Versus	
(Regd. Post)	<b>Public Information Officer</b> O/o Secy., Regional Transport Authority, Amritsar	
(Regd. Post)	<b>First Appellate Authority</b> O/o Secy., Regional Transport Authority, Amritsar	Respondent
<b><u>Appeal Case No.: 2349 of 2022</u></b> <b><u>Through CISCO WEBEX</u></b>		
<b>Present:</b>	Sh. Manjinder Singh- appellant in person. Respondent: Sh. Davinder Singh, Data Entry Operator (9781081113)	
<b>ORDER:</b>		

1. This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 21.11.2022 vide which respondent PIO was absent and show cause notice was issued to him. Matter was adjourned for further hearing on 22.12.2022 and copy of previous order was also sent to Sh. Arshdeep Singh (PCS), O/o Secretary, RTA, Amritsar by name for the compliance of this case. Hearing which was fixed for 22.12.2022 was postponed to 19.4.2023.
2. In today's hearing both the parties are present.
3. The appellant states that he has not received information in spite of directions/orders of the Commission on 01.08.2022 and 03.11.2022. He pleads for suitable direction to the respondent PIO,
4. After hearing both the parties and examining the case file, it is also observed that respondent PIO was absent on first hearing held on 01.08.2022. A call was also made to Sh. Arshdeep Singh (PCS) in this regard on his mobile number 9888747153 but no one bothers to join the cisco meeting to represent this case. A copy of this order was also sent to Sh. Arshdeep Singh (PCS), O/o Secretary, RTA, Amritsar by name for the compliance of this case. Matter was adjourned to 01.09.2022, which was postponed to 03.11.2022 and notice for the same were sent to the parties through registered post by the Commission.
5. On hearing 03.11.2022, respondent PIO was again absent and a show cause notice was issued to the respondent PIO. A copy of this order was also sent to Sh. Arshdeep Singh (PCS), O/o Secretary, RTA, Amritsar by name for the compliance of this case. Matter was adjourned to 22.12.2022, which was postponed and fixed for today and notice for the same were sent to the parties through registered post by the Commission.

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6. It is observed that RTI application was filed by the appellant on 12.02.2022 and case was filed by the appellant in the commission on 11.05.2022. Notice of hearing was issued to the parties on 07.06.2022 in this instant appeal case but appellant is still waiting for the requisite information after the sufficient time has elapsed, which means respondent PIO did not pay any heed towards the notice and order of the Commission as no communication is received after issuing the notice of hearing. Objective of this act is to promote the transparency and accountability, is difficult to achieve with this kind of lenient attitude of the concerned respondent PIO.
7. From the material on record, it transpires that there has been unnecessary delay in conveying the correct State of affairs to the appellant in respect to his request for information. No explanation for delay has been given by him. Rather, his failure 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.
8. In view of the defying attitude of the concerned **respondent PIO, Regional Transport Authority, Amritsar 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. 10000/- (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, Amritsar is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs. 10000/- 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
9. A copy of this order be sent Sh. Arshdeep Singh Lobana (PCS), RTA, Amritsar to look into the matter on priority basis and for the compliance of this order.
10. To come up on **28.06.2023 at 11:00 AM for further proceedings in the Commission.** Copy of the order be sent to the parties through **registered post**.

**Dated: 19.04.2023**

**(Anumit Singh Sodhi)**  
**State Information Commissioner**  
**Punjab**

**Registered Post:**

**Sh. Arshdeep Singh Lobana (PCS)**  
O/o Secy., Regional Transport Authority,  
Amritsar