

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

Ph: 0172-2864116, Email: - psic26@punjabmail.gov.in

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Shri Lajpat Rai Garg
S/o Shri Harbans Lal
R/o Romana Street, Jaito,
Tehsil Jaito, Distt. Faridkot.

....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Addl. Chief Secretary,
Local Government, Punjab,
Chandigarh(Local Govt.-3 Branch)

Public Information Officer,

Superintendent, General Branch
O/o Directorate of Local Government,
Punjab, Chandigarh.

Public Information Officer,

Superintendent, Establishment Branch
O/o Directorate of Local Government,
Punjab, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Addl. Chief Secretary,
Local Government, Punjab,
Chandigarh.

....Respondents

AC No.2718 of 2022

Present:

- (i) Shri Lajpat Rai Garg, Appellant- in person.
- (ii) Shri Gurcharan Singh, Senior Assistant, and Shri Sumit Kumar, Senior Assistant, Local Govt.-3 Branch O/o Addl. Chief Secretary, Local Govt., Punjab, Chandigarh- in person.
- (iii) Smt. Tarsem Kaur, Superintendent/PIO and Shri Aman Kumar, Senior Assistant, Establishment Branch O/o Director, Local Govt. Punjab- in person.
- (iv) Smt. Sarabjit Kaur, Senior Assistant, General Branch, O/o Director, Local Government, Punjab- in person.

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 09.11.2022 passed by this Bench on the previous hearing.
2. The case has been heard today. Shri Lajpat Rai Garg, appellant comes present in person before the Bench. He reiterates his version as made during the previous hearing.
3. Shri Gurcharan Singh, Senior Assistant and Shri Sumit Kumar, Sr. Assistant, Local Govt.-3 Branch, O/o Addl. Chief Secretary, Local Government, Punjab, Chandigarh come present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench. Shri Gurcharan Singh hands over letter dated 05.01.2023 giving point-wise reply to the appellant as also produces a copy of the same before the Bench.

4. Smt. Tarsem Kaur, Superintendent/PIO and Shri Aman Kumar, Senior Assistant, Establishment Branch O/o Director Local Govt., Punjab come present in person before the Bench and hands over letter dated 04.01.2023 to the appellant giving point-wise reply relating to their Branch and also produce a copy of the same before the Bench.
5. Smt. Sarabjit Kaur, Senior Assistant, General Branch O/o Director, Local Govt., Punjab comes present in person before the Bench and hands over letter dated 04.01.2023 giving point wise reply relating to their Branch as also produce a copy of the same before the Bench.
6. The Bench directs the respondents to sit together with the appellant in the adjacent court room and discuss with the appellant with regard to the information sought by him.
7. Post meeting, the appellant and Respondents report back to the Bench. The appellant states that he has not been given information on point No.2 by Local Govt.-3 Branch as he has sought only the date of joining of the PIO.
8. The Bench, upon hearing the version of the PIO and the appellant, is convinced that adequate information stands supplied to the appellant. The Bench, however, directs the PIO, Local Govt.-3 Branch to provide information to the appellant on point No.2 as discussed during the hearing. The respondent assures to do the same on priority.
9. The Bench also observes that the nature of information sought by the appellant involves more than one PIO. The Bench is of the view that adequate information stands provided and as per aforesaid discussions, the Bench is also of the view that the appellant cannot seek information in single RTI application from multiple public authorities. A Full Bench of State Information Commission, Punjab has in Complaint Case No.2903 of 2011 decided on 13.01.2012, ruled as under:-
- “We hold that under Section (3) of the Act *ibid*, the legal obligation of a PIO who receives a request for information under Section 6(1) of the Act is limited to transfer this request to only one public authority that hold the information. This obligation does not extend to transfer the request to multiple authorities.
10. With the aforesaid observations/directions, **the instant appeal case is disposed off and closed.** Copy of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh
05.01.2023

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