

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

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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 Director, Local Govt., Punjab,
Chandigarh.

Public Information Officer
Superintendent, Establishment Branch
O/o Director, Local Govt., Punjab,
Sector-35, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority
O/o Director, Local Govt., Punjab,
Chandigarh.

....Respondents

AC No.2719 of 2022

Present: (i) **Shri Lajpat Rai Garg, Appellant- in person.**
(ii) **Shri Rajiv Saggar, Superintendent, and Shri Navdeep Sharma, Vigilance Officer, Vigilance Cell O/o Director, Local Govt. Punjab, Chandigarh – 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 Rajiv Saggar, Superintendent, Vigilance Cell also comes present in person before the Bench and states that he had requested for making available a copy of the RTI application to the PIO/Superintendent, Local Government-3 which has not been made available to him. He further states that today, he has seen copy of RTI application with the appellant and on perusal of the RTI application, he has not found any point of RTI application relating to Vigilance Cell O/o Director, Local Government, Punjab and requests for exemption from presence in the further hearings.
4. The PIO/Superintendent, Establishment O/o Director, Local Government, Punjab, impleaded as respondent No.2 has neither come present in person before the Bench nor through cisco webex nor she has complied with the directions of the Bench as she was directed to call the appellant to office and allow him access to the relevant official records and supply information to the appellant as is identified by him after inspection of records. The PIO/Superintendent, Establishment Branch was also issued show cause notice during previous hearing, however, no reply has been filed by the PIO.

5. The PIO/ Superintendent, Establishment Branch O/o Director, Local Government, Punjab is again directed to call the appellant to office and allow him access to the relevant records. The information as is identified by the appellant after inspection be provided to him and reply to the show cause notice be also filed before the next hearing. She is also directed to come present in person before the Bench on the next hearing.

6. The Bench also takes serious note of the PIO/Superintendent, Local Govt.-3 Branch who has been putting in appearance without being fully equipped with the facts of the case as the PIO, Vigilance Branch O/o Director, Local Govt. Punjab was impleaded as respondent at his insistence. The Bench also takes note of the absence of PIO/Superintendent, Establishment Branch O/o Director, Local Government, Punjab observing her casual approach towards the directions of the Bench and directs her to ensure to come present in person before the Bench on the next hearing. The PIO Vigilance Branch O/o Director, Local Govt. is, however, exempted from appearance in the future hearings.

7. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 05.01.2023 at 11.30 AM in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copy of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

**Chandigarh
07.12.2022**

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

Copy to (By Regd. Post)

**Public Information Officer/Superintendent, Establishment Branch,
O/o Directorate of Local Government, Punjab, Chandigarh.**