

**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) Smt. Tarsem Kaur, Superintendent/PIO and Shri Aman Kumar, Senior Assistant, Establishment Branch O/o Director, Local Govt. Punjab, Chandigarh – in person.
- (iii) Smt. Sarabjit Kaur, Senior Assistant, General Branch, O/o Director, Local Govt., Punjab, in person.

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 07.12.2022 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 hearings.
3. Smt. Tarsem Kaur, Superintendent/ PIO, and Shri Aman Kumar, Senior Assistant, Establishment Branch O/o Director, Local Government, Punjab, come present in person before the Bench and state that in pursuance of the orders of Hon'ble Bench, the appellant was called twice vide letter dated 27.12.2022 and 03.01.2023 to allow him access to the relevant official records. However, the appellant has not turned up to do so and also produce before the Bench a letter to this effect.
4. The Bench directs the PIO to sit together with the appellant in the adjacent court room and discuss with the appellant details of information sought by him.
5. Post meeting, the appellant and PIO report back to the Bench. The appellant states that he has been assured provision of information, however, he is not satisfied with the outcome of discussion.

6. 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.

7. Notwithstanding the observation as made above, the Bench, upon hearing the version of the PIO and the appellant, feels that the appellant be given another chance. As such, the Bench directs the Superintendent Establishment O/o Director, Local Govt., Punjab to call the appellant to office and allow him access to the relevant official records and supply him the information as is identified by the appellant after inspection of records, before the next hearing.

8. With the aforesaid directions, **the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 15.02.2023 before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** 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**