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.

Nodal Officer, RTI Cell

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.

ORDER:

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 05.01.2023 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 on 02.01.2023, 04.01.2023 and 31.01.2023 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. On the asking of the Bench, the appellant denies receipt of any letter vide which he may have been called for inspection of records.

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5. Post deliberations, the Bench observes that the appellant has addressed RTI Application to the Director, Local Government, Punjab and this is sixth consecutive hearing. However, during discussion, the representative of the office of Director, Local Government has not been able to put forth convincing response to the Bench as to which is the directly dealing Branch with regard to the RTI application of the appellant vide which he has sought information in respect of the official of Municipal Council, Jaito regarding the promotions given to them and other related record of the office of Director, Local Government, Punjab. The Bench, thus, deems it appropriate to implead the Nodal Officer, RTI in the office of Director, Local Government, Punjab as Respondent No.3 and directs him to find out as to whom this RTI actually relates and ensure that the information is supplied to the appellant, before the next hearing.

- 6. The Bench also directs the Director, Local Government, Punjab to look into the matter and examine as to how casually the RTI applications are handled in the Local Government, Department.
- 7. Apart from the above, the Bench also advises the appellant to be very specific in seeking the information under the RTI Act as from his present way of filing his RTI application, he has sought varied and vast information of numerous issues in one application.
- 8. With the aforesaid directions/observations, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 20.04.2023 before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh. Copy of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 15.02.2023 Sd/(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma (Retd))
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy to (By Regd. Post)

The Director (By Name), Local Govt., Punjab, Municipal Bhawan, Sector-35, Chandigarh for compliance of directions, as above.