

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

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

Visit us: - www.infocompunjab.com, [Cisco Webex Code:15857-23975](https://www.cisco.com/cisco/webex)
(Helpline No.0172-2864100(From 10.00 AM to 04.00PM on working days))



Shri Gagan Bali, Advocate,
1684, Street Number 07,
Pawan Nagar, Batala Road,
Amritsar.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer
O/o The Commissioner,
MC, Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority
O/o The Commissioner,
MC, Amritsar.

....Respondents

AC No. 2987 of 2022

Present: (i) Appellant- absent.
(ii) None on behalf of the PIO/Respondent.

ORDER

1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 07.11.2022 passed by the Bench during the previous hearing.
2. The case has been heard today in the Commission's office at Chandigarh. The Appellant, Shri Gagan Bali has not come present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench or through cisco webex. He has, however, sent an e.mail dated 04.12.2022 stating that he has to attend to an urgent case in the Sessions Court, and as such, is unable to attend the hearing and has sought adjournment.
3. Neither the PIO O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar has come present to attend the hearing in person or through cisco webex. The Bench observes that during the previous hearing, Shri Vishal Rampal had come present and on his request, he was granted additional time to enable him to supply information to the appellant. In spite of that the PIO has failed to comply with the directions of the Bench. This indifferent attitude of the PIO is viewed adversely.
4. The PIO O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar is issued show cause notice to explain his absence and as to why action should not be taken against him and also as to why penalty should not be imposed in the instant case for failing to appear for the hearing and for not supplying information to the appellant. He is also directed to file a written reply to the show cause notice as to why the appellant should not be compensated for the mental harassment suffered by him in getting the information.

Cont..P-2

5. In addition to the written reply, the PIO is hereby given an opportunity u/s 20(1) proviso thereto for personal hearing before the imposition of such a penalty, on the next date of hearing. He may take note that in case he does not file the written reply and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date fixed, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission shall proceed to take further proceedings against him ex-parte.

6.. The PIO O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar is again directed to comply with the directions of the Bench and ensure to appear in person before the Bench, failing which the Bench will be constrained to issue BAILABLE WARRANT to ensure his presence before the Bench.

7. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 31.01.2023 at 11.30 AM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

**Chandigarh
05.12.2022**

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

Copy to (By Regd. Post)

**Public Information Officer, O/o Commissioner,
O/o Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.**