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Sh. Lajpat Rai Garg (98142-30616)

S/o Sh. Harbans Lal, House No. B-3 /287, Romana Street, Jaito, District Faridkot.

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Nagar Panchayat, Sardulgarh, District Mansa.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Deputy Director, Local Govt., Bathinda.

Respondent

Appellant

Appeal Case No.: 312 of 2021
Through CISCO WEBEX

Present: Appellant: Sh. Lajpat Rai Garg at PSIC.

Respondent: Sh. Vipin Kumar, Executive Officer, Mansa (9646609100) at PSIC office.

ORDER:

- This case may be read with the reference to the previous order dated 13.04.2023 vide which
 respondent PIO was directed either to supply the information or affidavit in this regard to the
 appellant with a copy to the Commission within one week after receipt of order. Matter was
 adjourned for further hearing on 05.07.2023.
- 2. In today's hearing, the appellant states that the status of the case is same, as it was on the previous hearing held on 13.04.2023. He adds that he has sent a letter dated 28.06.2023, which was received by the Commission vide diary number 16052 dated 04.07.2023 stating therein that Hon'ble Commissioner ordered PIO to supply affidavit not self declaration. In that letter he also requested to penalize the respondent PIO and to grant him compensation. The letter is taken on record. It is observed that appellant sent letter dated 07.04.2023 via emails dated 10.04.2023 (two emails) and 12.04.2023 (two emails) stating therein that information in connection with point no. 5 is pending and he is unable to attend hearing on 13.04.2023. All four emails are taken on record. It is also observed that one similar email dated 11.040.2023 was also received from the Bench of Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Sh. Amrit Partap Singh Sekhon, which is also taken on record. It is observed that appellant presented this instant appeal case on the fixed date i.e. 13.04.2023.
- 3. On this, respondent PIO-cum-EO, Sh. Vipin Kumar states that he has brought the affidavit dated 03.07.2023, in original in connection with point no. 5, as per previous order of the Commission dated 13.04.2023 and he hands over the same to the appellant during the hearing. He also submits a copy of the same to the undersigned Bench, which is taken on record.

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4. After hearing both the parties and examining the case file, it is observed that appellant intimated the Commission that he is satisfied with the supplied information from point no. 1 to 4 vide order dated 13.04.2023.

It is observed that reply was sent to the appellant on dated 01.07.2022, 29.08.2022, 07.01.2021, 16.09.2022, 19.12.2022, 16.05.2023 and 03.07.2023 during the hearing comprising an affidavit in original to the appellant with intimations to the Commission in connection with point no. 5 on the following dates:

- Vide letter no. 27 dated 07.01.2021
- Vide letter no. 775 dated 01.07.2022
- Vide letter no. 1097 dated 29.08.2022
- Vide letter dated 1178 dated 16.09.2022
- Vide letter no. 1639 dated 19.12.2022
- Vide letter no. 739 dated 16.05.2023
- Vide letter no. 904 dated 03.07.2023 (affidavit in original to the appellant during the hearing An affidavit)
- 5. I am of the considered view that appellant suffered a lot to collect the requisite information in this instant appeal case as he filed RTI application on 19.02.2020 and this has resulted in much avoidable inconvenience and hardship to the Appellant. He is, therefore, entitled to be compensated under Section 19(8) (b) of RTI Act 2005 for the loss and detriment suffered by him. In the circumstances, I am of the view that ends of justice would be met if a sum of Rs.5000/-(Rupees five thousand Only) is awarded to the Appellant as compensation. I order accordingly.
- 6. This amount shall be payable by the Respondent from the State exchequer within fifteen days from the receipt of this order under intimation to the Commission.
- 7. It is also observed that supplied affidavit is satisfactory in connection with point no. 5. Therefore, no action is required in this case. Hence, this instant appeal case is **disposed of & closed**. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Dated: 05.07.2023 State Information

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab