

Shri Yogesh Mahajan S/o Late Sh. Kuldeep Raj  
Water Tank, Municipal Market, Mission  
Road, Pathankot

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,**  
O/o The Executive Engineer,  
Punjab Water Supply & Sanitation  
Division No.2,  
Sri Muktsar Sahib

**First Appellate Authority**  
O/o The Superintending Engineer,  
Punjab Water Supply & Sanitation  
Circle, Sri Muktsar Sahib

...Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 3137 of 2021**

**PRESENT:   None for the Appellant**  
**Sh.Prakash Lakesar -SDO for the Respondent**

**ORDER:**

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 01.04.2021 has sought information regarding grant received/utilized from 18.05.2020 to 01.04.2021 – comparative statements approved for works by e-tendering – statements approved for work by tender work – copy of sanction letter issued for work of CSR as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of Xen, Water Supply & Sanitation Division No.2, Sri Mukatsar Sahib. The appellant was not provided the information after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 06.05.2021, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case has already been heard by Sh.Sanjiv Garg, State Information Commissioner on 05.10.2021, 21.12.2021 22.03.2021 & 12.07.2021.

Due to non supply of information and non-filing of reply to the show cause notice as well as non-presence of the PIO at the hearing on 21.12.2021, action was initiated against the PIO under section 20 of the RTI Act and a **penalty of Rs.10000/-** was imposed upon the PIO. The PIO was directed to deposit the penalty amount in the Govt Treasury and submit a copy of challan as a proof of having deposited the penalty.

On the date of hearing on 12.07.2021, Sh.Raminderjeet Singh Bedi-SDE appeared and informed that the information is ready and is being sent to the appellant. However, the PIO failed to deposit the penalty amount imposed on 21.12.2021 despite giving sufficient opportunity to deposit the same. The Commission having taken a serious view of this casual approach of the respondent/PIO, enhanced the penalty amount from Rs.10000/- to Rs.20000/-. A copy of the order was marked to the Chief Engineer, Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Patiala with the direction to ensure that the order of the Commission are complied with by the concerned PIO well in time and the PIO to appear on the next date of hearing.

The case has come up for **hearing before this bench today** through video conferencing at DAC Pathankot/Sri Mukatsar Sahib. The respondent present informed that the information has already been provided to the appellant.

The appellant is absent and vide email has informed that he has received the information from the PIO.

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The PIO has, however, not deposited the penalty amount.

The PIO is given one last opportunity to deposit the penalty amount in the Govt Treasury and submit a copy of the challan as a proof of having deposited the penalty in the Govt. Treasury failing which the Commission will recommend proceedings against the PIO under section 20(2) of the RTI Act.

To come up for further hearing on **16.01.2023** at 11.00 AM through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Sri Mukatsar Sahib.

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated: 10.11.2022**

**Sd/-**  
**(Khushwant Singh)**  
**State Information Commissioner**