

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
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(Regd. Post) **Sh. Vijay Singh(9592935183)** Appellant
S/o Sh. Gurmail Singh,
R/o Vill. Bathlana, Distt. Mohali.
Now at C/o SCO No.30, First Floor-1,
(Sector 55), Mohali.

Versus

Show-Cause

(Regd. Post) **Public Information Officer**
O/o Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat,
Bathlana,
Tehsil & Distt. Mohali.

Encl. RTI application

(Regd. Post) **First Appellate Authority**
O/o DDPO, Mohali.

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 349 of 2023
Through CISCO WEBEX

Present: Appellant: Sh. Vijay Singh at PSIC office.
Respondent: Absent.

ORDER:

1. The RTI application is dated 03.06.2022 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) on 22.08.2022 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 04.01.2023 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act) and the hearing has been fixed for today.
2. In today's hearing, the appellant, Shri Vijay Singh states that irrelevant record has been supplied to him on 25.07.2022.
3. The respondent is absent without any intimation to the undersigned bench. Commission takes a serious view of the casual approach of the Respondent / PIO, in spite of issuing of registered post notice of hearing but still nobody appears from the department today to represent this case.
4. In view of the foregoing, **respondent PIO, O/o The Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat, Bathlana, Tehsil and District Mohali is directed to Show Cause** in writing or through affidavit under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, as to why penalty should not be imposed upon him for wilful delay / denial of the information to the RTI applicant and why the compensation be not awarded to the appellant under Section 19 (8)(b) of the Act for detriment suffered.

In addition to his submission, the PIO is also hereby given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso, thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may note that in case he does not file his submission 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.

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5. A copy of this order be also sent to the First Appellate Authority i.e. The DDPO, Mohali through registered post for the compliance of this order and to look into the matter as RTI Act, 2005 came into existence to promote transparency and accountability of every public authority, not for the harassment of the public.
6. Both the parties are directed to appear in the Commission along with the relevant record on the next date of hearing to clear the facts of this case, failing which the case will be decided on merits.
7. This case is adjourned and both the parties are directed to come up **on 05.07.2023 at 11:00 A.M. at Punjab State Information Commission, Sector 16, Chandigarh.** Copy of the order be sent to the parties through registered post.

Dated: 25.05.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Note: After the hearing of this case was over, Sh. Hoshiar Singh, Panchayat Secretary (9501581644) appeared at PSIC office. He was apprised of the above said order. He also states that the information comprising of 80 pages had been supplied to the appellant after collecting the requisite fees Rs. 240/- from the appellant. Sh. Hoshiar Singh submits a copy of letter dated 25.06.2022 signed by Sh. Amrik Singh, VDO along with a copy of postal receipt dated 27.06.2022 on the same page, which is taken on record.

He adds that no discrepancy has been pointed out by the appellant in the supplied information till date. It is also observed that no communication regarding discrepancy (supplied information on 27.06.2022) is received by the Commission as per the case file. Accordingly **Show Cause which was issued to the respondent PIO is dropped.**

Appellant is advised to bring the specifically discrepancy in writing as per RTI application on the next date of hearing, failing which case will be decided on merits.

Next date of hearing stands same i.e. **05.07.2023 at 11:00 A.M. at Punjab State Information Commission, Sector 16, Chandigarh.**

Dated: 25.05.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab