

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Sh. Manjinder Singh (9872015069)

2469, Sunny Enclave,

Sector 125, Kharar, Distt. Mohali (140301)

Appellant

Versus

SHOW CAUSE:-

Public Information Officer
(Regd. Post) O/o Secretary,
Regional Transport Authority,
Bathinda.

Encl. RTI application

First Appellate Authority
(Regd. Post) O/o Secretary,
Regional Transport Authority,
Bathinda.

Encl. RTI application

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 3543 of 2022

Through CISCO WEBEX

Present: Appellant - Sh. Manjinder Singh.

Respondent: None is present from the department.

ORDER:

1. This case may be read with the reference of the previous order dated 03.11.2022 and matter was adjourned for today i.e. 25.01.2023.
2. In today's hearing, appellant states that no information has been supplied to him and he mentioned has same kind of information has been supplied to him by the office of Jalandhar. He adds that an email dated 24.01.2023 sent to the undersigned Bench in this regard, which is received and taken on record.
3. Respondent PIO is consecutively absent second time without any intimation to the Commission. He was also absent on the previous hearing held on 03.11.2022, which shows his casual approach towards the notice/order issued by the Commission.
4. As no information has been supplied to the appellant till today and respondent PIO failed to avail opportunity to represent this case today and on the previous hearing held on 03.11.2022 even after the ample time has elapsed.
5. In view of the foregoing, respondent **PIO, O/o The Secretary, RTA, Bathinda 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.

6. A copy of this order be also sent to the **First Appellate Authority i.e. The Secretary, RTA, Bathinda 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 in the working of every public authority, not for the harassment of the public.
7. The PIO concerned is directed appear in person along with requisite information and related documents, on the next date of hearing before the bench.
8. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **Both the parties are directed to come up for hearing on 01.03.2023 at 11.00 AM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Dated: 25.01.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab