

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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(Regd. Post)	Sh. Manjinder Singh (98720-15069) # 2469, Sunny Enclave, Sector 125, Kharar, District Mohali (143301)	Appellant
	Versus	
(Regd. Post)	Public Information Officer O/o Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot.	
(Regd. Post)	First Appellate Authority (By Name) O/o Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot.	Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 3545 of 2022

Hearing through CISCO WEBEX

Present: Appellant – Sh. Manjinder Singh
Respondent: absent.

ORDER:

1. This case may be read with the reference to the previous order dated 25.01.2023.
2. In today's hearing, appellant states that information is still pending from the respondent PIO even after issuing directions on 03.11.2022 and 25.01.2023.
3. Respondent PIO is continuously absent third time without any intimation to the Commission. He was also absent on previous hearings held on 03.11.2022 and 25.01.2023, which means he has no regard to the notices and orders issued to him by the Commission.
4. RTI Act, 2005 came into existence in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, not to harass public to collect information
5. From the material on record, it transpires that there has been unnecessary delay in conveying the correct State of affairs to the appellant in respect to his request for information. No explanation for delay has been given by him. Rather, his failure to even respond to the directions issued to him by the Commission reinforces the fact that he has been without any reasonable cause guilty of remissness in the discharge of his duties, therefore, deserves to be penalized.

6. In view of the defying attitude of the concerned respondent PIO, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot neither attending the court nor submitting any explanation for the directions issued to him within the time schedule as prescribed under the RTI Act 2005, the court comes to a logical conclusion that it is a fit case for the imposition of penalty amounting to Rs. 10000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only) upon the concerned respondent PIO. **However, taking a lenient view, I impose a penalty of Rs. 10,000/- (Rs. Ten thousand only) on the respondent PIO.** The Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the office of RTA, Faridkot is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs. 10000/- from the salary of the concerned respondent PIO and be deposited in the State Treasury in the following Head of Account and to report its compliance to the Commission:-

"0070-Other Administrative Services

60 other Services

800-Other Receipts

86-Fee under the RTI Act, 2005

7. **A copy of this order be sent to the First Appellate Authority by name through registered post** to look into the matter on priority basis as appellant filed RTI application on 09.05.2022 and still waiting for collecting the requisite information, which indeed is a serious matter.
8. To come up on **03.04.2022 at 11:00 AM for further proceedings in the Commission.** Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Dated: 01.03.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab