

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Sh. Ashwani Kumar (8054798600)

S/o Shri Om Prakash,

R/o F9- 1186, Street No. 5, Batala Road, Vijay Nagar,
Amritsar.

...Appellant

Versus

(Regd. Post) Public Information Officer (By Name)
O/o The Municipal Town Planner,
M, C Block, Ranjit Avenue,
Amritsar (143001)

(Regd. Post) First Appellate Authority
O/o The Commissioner,
MC, Amritsar.

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 3715 of 2022
Through CISCO WEBEX

Present: Appellant: Sh. Ashwani Kumar is present through webex.
Respondent: None is present from the department.

ORDER:

1. This case may be read with the reference of the previous order dated 02.08.2022.
2. In today's hearing, the Appellant, Shri Ashwani Kumar states that no information has been supplied to him.
3. Respondent PIO did not pay any heed towards notices and orders issued to him through registered post by the Commission time and again. He was absent on the previous hearings held on 17.11.2021 before the Bench of Ld. SIC, Sh. Hem Inder Singh and matter was fixed for 24.01.2022. The above mentioned case was allocated to the undersigned Bench vide office order dated 03.01.2022 passed by the Hon'ble Chief Information Commissioner, accordingly matter was fixed for 10.03.2022, which was postponed and fixed for 26.05.2022.
4. On hearing held on 26.05.2022, respondent PIO was absent and Show Cause notice was issued to him and matter was fixed for 02.08.2022.
5. On hearing 02.08.2022, respondent PIO was again absent and matter was fixed for further hearing on 11.10.2022 along with directions to the respondent PIO to appear in person at Punjab State Information Commission but he failed to avail the given opportunities by the Commission.
6. 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.

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7. In view of the defying attitude of the concerned **respondent PIO, Municipal Town Planner, MC, Amritsar** 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 Commissioner, MC, Amritsar 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

8. To come up on **24.11.2022 at 11:00 AM for further proceedings in the Punjab State Information Commission**. Announced in the court. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Dated: 11.10.2022

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab