

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

**Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.**

Ph: 0172-2864113, Helpline No. 0172-2864100

Email: - psic22@punjabmail.gov.in

Visit us: - www.infocommpunjab.com



(Regd. Post) Sh. Amrik Singh (9780471515) Appellant
D 4, Ambedkar Society,
Sector 76, SAS Nagar (Mohali)
Versus
(Regd. Post) Public Information Officer
O/o Regional Transport Authority, Amritsar.

(Regd. Post) First Appellate Authority
O/o State Transport Commissioner, Punjab
Sector 17, Chandigarh . Respondent
Appeal Case No.: 3833 of 2021
Through CISCO WEBEX
Present: Appellant – Sh. Amrik Singh
Respondent: Absent

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 28.03.2023.
2. In today's hearing the appellant is present and states that information is still pending inspite of orders passed by the Commission time and again. He further pleads for suitable action so that he may get the sought for information.
3. Perusal of the file shows that, notice of hearing was issued to the parties on 27.10.2021 by the undersigned Bench and dispatched on 29.10.2021 by the Registry Branch of the Commission for hearing fixed for 11.05.2022.
4. **On hearing held on 11.05.2022**, respondent PIO was absent and seven days were awarded to him to supply information after receipt of this order. Matter was adjourned to 18.08.2022.
5. **On hearing held on 18.08.2022**, respondent PIO was absent second time and a **Show-Cause** notice was issued to him and he was called to appear in person at Commission along with information on the next date of hearing. A copy of this order along with RTI application was sent to him through registered post. Matter was adjourned to 22.09.2022.
6. **On hearing held on 22.09.2022**, Sh. Amandeep APIO appeared and requested for an adjournment in this case and assured that information will be supplied immediately. **Penalty amounting Rs. 10,000/- was imposed on the concerned respondent PIO** as he did not bother to comply with the previous order of the Commission dated 11.05.2022 and 18.08.2022 even he did appeared before the undersigned Bench. Matter was adjourned to 08.12.2022.
7. **On hearing held on 08.12.2022**, respondent, Sh. Pawan Steno appeared and he intimated the Commission that **letter dated 01.12.2022 regarding penalty deposit is in process** **Penalty amounting Rs. 10,000/ and requested to supply copy of RTI application.** Fifteen days were awarded to the respondent PIO for penalty deposit and for supplying the requisite information. Matter was adjourned to 28.03.2023.
8. **On hearing held on 28.03.2023**, both the parties were present but hearing was adjourned to 16.05.2023 i.e. today.

Appeal Case No.: 3833 of 2021

Through CISCO WEBEX

9. Respondent PIO is absent in spite of registered post orders issued to him by the Commission. No communication for exemption or information is received from the respondent PIO after the previous hearing held on 28.03.2023, as he did not paid any heed towards the orders of the Commission, which only shows his causal and irresponsible behavior as a public servant which is not acceptable. He did not bother to appear once even after issuing show cause or imposing penalty. As per the case file, neither challan is received by the Commission nor did intimation regarding information supply, which means PIO is failed to perform his duties.
10. In view of forgoing, **penalty amounting Rs. 10,000/-which was imposed on the concerned respondent PIO vide order dated 22.09.2022 is enhanced from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-.**
11. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the office of RTA, Amritsar is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs. 20000/- 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
12. A copy of this order be sent to the First Appellate Authority through registered post to look into the matter as RTA, Amritsar office showing irresponsible attitude towards the cases fixed by the Commission from so long and make sure concerned respondent PIO may appear on net date of hearing along with official record relates with this instant appeal case and other cases fixed for the same date.
13. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned for further hearing on **28.6.2023 at 11:00 A.M. at Punjab State Information Commission**. Copy of the order be sent to the parties through **registered post**.

Date: 16.5.2023

**(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab**