

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

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Sh. H.S.Hundal, Advocate (9878500082)

203, District Courts,

Sector 76,

Mohali 160071.

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Regional Transport Authority, Patiala

First Appellate Authority

O/o State Transport Commissioner, Pb.,

Chandigarh

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 3844 of 2021
Hearing through CISCO WEBEX

Present: (i) Appellant –Absent.

(ii) For the respondent: Sh. Harjit Singh (Clerk-cum-APIO) (7009537406)

ORDER

1. This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 13.09.2022 vide which appellant was advised to visit the respondent's office on **13.10.2022 at 11:00 A.M.** to inspect the official record and **respondent PIO, Sh. Sham Lal** was directed to be present on the fixed date and time. Respondent PIO was also directed to supply the official record for inspection as per queries raised by the appellant in the RTI application along with directions to supply the identified pages within seven days after identification. Matter was adjourned for further hearing on 22.11.2022.
2. In today's hearing, appellant is not present but an email dated 21.11.2022 is received stating therein that appellant tried to connect with respondent PIO before 13.10.2022 several times but no response. This email is taken on record.
3. Respondent, Sh. Harjit Singh states that record lies in the Head Office and letters were sent / issued in this regard but record is not received yet.
4. After having detailed discussion with the respondent and examining the case file, it is observed that appellant filed RTI application on 15.03.2021, but till date nothing has been supplied to him, which means respondent PIO is making mockery of the RTI Act, 2005 which came into existence to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every Public Authority. It also affects disposal of the case.
5. As per case file, it is also observed that RTI application is not transferred to the respondent PIO, State Transport Commissioner, Punjab Chandigarh under Section 6(3) within the stipulated time period as per the RTI Act, 2005.

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6. On hearing held on 12.05.2022, respondent Sh. Harjit Singh intimated that record is voluminous and request the appellant to specify the same and he was also present on the hearing held on 13.09.2022 vide which inspection was fixed for 13.10.2022 but till date status is same, information is pending to be supplied, which is indeed a serious matter.
7. **A final opportunity is awarded to the respondent PIO, o/o RTA, Patiala to collect the information from STC office and to supply the point-wise reply/information as per RTI application to the appellant within fifteen days from the date of receipt of this order, without any further delay as ample time had already been elapsed.**
8. Respondent PIO, Sh. Sham Lal (ATO) is also directed to appear in person on the next date of hearing. A copy of this order be sent to him by name through registered post for his ready reference.
9. A copy of this order be also sent to respondent PIO, Ms. Kulwinder Kaur, O/o State Transport Commissioner, Punjab Chandigarh by name through registered post for her ready reference
10. Appellant is advised to represent this case on the next date of hearing positively so that case could be concluded. He is also advised to point out discrepancy, if any, in writing to the respondent PIO with a copy to the Commission within ten days after receipt of the information, failing which it will be presumed that he has nothing to say in this regard.
11. To come up on **17.01.2023 at 11:00 A.M. through CISCO-Webex** (Video Conferencing application). Copy of the order be sent to the parties. (Steps to use CISCO WEBEX: Install CISCO Webex->Click on Join Meeting->Enter Meeting Number 1582933632).

Dated: 22.11.2022

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Regd. Post **Sh. Sham Lal (ATO-cum-PIO)**
O/o Regional Transport Authority,
Patiala

Regd. Post **Ms. Kulwinder Kaur (Public Information Officer)**
O/o State Transport Commissioner, Punjab,
Chandigarh

Note: Ms. Kulwinder Kaur (PIO, O/o STC, Punjab, Chandigarh) appears in other appeal case no. 4037 of 2022, which is also fixed for today. She intimates the undersigned Bench that record in connection with the instant appeal case was sent to the respondent PIO, O/o RTA Patiala via emails dated 17.11.2022, 18.11.2022, 21.11.2022 and today itself.

Dated: 22.11.2022

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab