

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. Gurmej Lal (9781672776)

Whistle Blower,

NCAG, Street No.5, # 1331-5,

Vishwakarma Bhawan, Down Canal Road,

Simlapuri, Ludhiana-141003.

Appellant

Versus

Show-Cause

Public Information Officer

(Regd. Post) O/o EO, Nagar Council, Budhlada,

Distt. Mansa

Encl. RTI application

First Appellate Authority

O/o EO, Nagar Council, Budhlada,

Distt. Mansa

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 3991 of 2022

Through CISCO WEBEX

Present: Appellant - Sh. Gurmej Lal

Respondent: absent

ORDER:

1. This case may be read with the reference of the previous order dated 20.12.2022.
2. In today's hearing, appellant is present and states that information is pending from the respondent PIO even after the directions of the Commission on 20.12.2022.
3. Respondent PIO is absent consecutively second time without any intimation to the Commission, which shows his causal approach towards the notice/order of the Commission sent to him through registered post.
4. In view of the foregoing, **respondent PIO, O/o EO, Nagar Council, Budhlada, Distt. Mansa is directed to show cause** in writing or through affidavit under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, as to why penalty be not imposed upon him for willful delay/ denial of the information to the RTI applicant and why the compensation be not awarded to the complainant 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.

5. Respondent PIO is directed to supply the point wise reply / information as per RTI application, to the Appellant within 10 days from the date of receipt of this order and deal this case on priority basis. He is also directed to appear in person on the next date of hearing to represent this case.

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6. The Appellant is also advised to go through the information, once he had received and point out specific discrepancies, if any, in writing to the Respondent / PIO with a copy to the Commission within 7 days after receipt of information, failing which it would be presumed that he has nothing to say in this regard.
7. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned for further hearing on **01.06.2023 at 11:00 A.M. through CISCO-Webex** (Video Conferencing application). Copy of the order be sent to the parties through **registered post**.
(Steps to use CISCO WEBEX: Install CISCO Webex->Click on Join Meeting->Enter Meeting Number 1582933632).

Dated: 12.04.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab