



Shri Gurmej Lal, Whistle Blower,
NCAG, Street No.5# 1331/5,
Vishawkarma, Bhawan, Down Canal Road,
Shimlapuri, Ludhiana.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Executive Officer,
Municipal Council, Begowal,
Distt:Kapurthala.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Executive Officer,
Municipal Council, Begowal,
Distt:Kapurthala.

....Respondents

AC No. 3994 of 2022

Present:

- (i) Shri Gurmej Lal, appellant - in person.
- (ii) None on behalf of the PIO/Respondent- in person.

ORDER

1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 23.11.2022 passed by this Bench on the previous hearing.
2. Shri Gurmej Lal, appellant comes present to attend the hearing through cisco webex and states that he has received information only on point no.1 and no information has been supplied on remaining points of his RTI application.
3. Neither the PIO O/o Municipal Council, Begowal, District Kapurthala has come present in person before the Bench nor through cisco webex nor he has deputed any of his representatives to attend the hearing on behalf of the PIO.
4. After going through the case file, the Bench observes that the Respondent has absented himself for the third consecutive hearing and has not bothered to comply with the directions of the Bench. This indifferent and lackadaisical attitude on the part of PIO is viewed adversely.
5. The PIO O/o Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Begowal, District Kapurthala is issued show cause notice to explain his absence and as to why action should not be taken against him and also as to why penalty should not be imposed in the instant case for failing to appear for the hearing and not supplying complete information to the appellant.. He is also directed to file a written reply to the show cause notice as to why the appellant should not be compensated for the mental harassment suffered by him in getting the information.

6. In addition to the written reply, the PIO is hereby given an opportunity u/s 20(1) proviso thereto for personal hearing before the imposition of such a penalty, on the next date of hearing. He may take note that in case he does not file the written reply 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.

7. **In view of the absence of the PIO for the third consecutive hearing, the PIO is issued BAILABLE WARRANT to ensure his presence before the Bench on the next hearing.**

8. The PIO is again directed to supply point-wise complete information to the appellant before the next hearing as also ensure to come present in person before the Bench on the next hearing.

9. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 03.01.2023 at 11.30 AM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

**Chandigarh
14.12.2022**

**Sd/-
(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma (Retd))
State Information Commissioner, Punjab**

Copy to (By Regd.Post)

Public Information Officer
O/o Executive Officer,
Municipal Council, Begowal,
Distt:Kapurthala.