

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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(Regd. Post) **Shri Jasbir Singh,**
Guru Nanak Nagar, Village Bholapur Jhabewal,
PO Ramgarh, District Ludhiana. (Pin : 141123)

Appellant

Versus

Show-Cause

(Regd. Post) **Public Information Officer**
O/o The Secretary,
Regional Transport Authority,
Faridkot

Encl. RTI application

(Regd. Post) **First Appellate Authority**
O/o The Secretary,
Regional Transport Authority,
Faridkot .

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 4098 of 2022
Through CISCO WEBEX

Present: Appellant - Sh. Jasbir Singh
Respondent: absent.

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 12.4.2023 vide which show cause was issued to the respondent PIO with the directions to supply the information to the appellant within 10 days from the receipt of the order. Accordingly, the matter was adjourned to 6.6.2023.
2. In today's hearing the appellant is present and states that he is still struggling to receive the requisite information in the present appeal case.
3. Respondent PIO is absent consecutively third time without any intimation to the Commission. He was also absent on the previous hearings held on 14.12.2022 and 12.04.2022 and show cause notice was issued to him vide order dated 12.04.2022 but till date reply is not received by the Commission in this regard, which shows he is irresponsible and has lenient attitude towards his duties as a public servant, which indeed a serious matter and cannot be accepted.
4. 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.
5. In view of the defying attitude of the concerned respondent PIO, O/o Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot 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 Secretary, RTA, Faridkot 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

6. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned for further hearing on **19.07.2023 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).

Date: 6.6.2023

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