

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Shri Manik Goyal, (M:8146000420)

H. No. 21, Sharma Street, Near Nirankari Bhawan,
Link Road, Mansa(151505)

.. Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o The Executive Officer,
Municipal Council, Mansa.

First Appellate Authority

O/o The ADC (UD),
Ground Floor, District Court Complex,
Mansa.

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 4147 of 2022

Through CISCO WEBEX

Present:

Appellant - Sh. Manik Goyal

Respondent: Sh. Jatinder (JE)

ORDER:

1. This case may be read with the reference of the previous order dated 14.12.2022.
2. In today's hearing, both the parties are present and appellant states that information is still pending even after the ample time has elapsed.
3. Respondent, Sh. Jatinder states that he has joined office last week and came to know that information had already been supplied to the appellant.
4. After having detailed discussion with both the parties and examining the case file, it is observed that a copy of previous order dated 14.12.2022 was sent to Sh. Vipin Kumar (EO-cum-PIO) by name through registered post but after the four months status is same, which means respondent, PIO, Sh. Vipin (EO) is not serious towards his duties as a public servant. He did not bother to pay heed towards the directions of the Commission, which indeed a serious matter.
5. 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.
6. In view of the defying attitude of the concerned respondent PIO, EO, MC, Mansa 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. 5000/- (Rupees Five thousand only) upon the concerned respondent PIO. However, taking a lenient view, **I impose a penalty of Rs. 5,000/- (Rs. Five thousand only) on the respondent PIO, Sh. Vipin Kumar (EO)**. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the office of EO, MC, Mansa is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs. 5000/- 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

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7. It is also observed that respondent PIO, O/o EO, MC, Mansa is very lenient in other cases fixed before the Commission/undersigned Bench, due to which matters are still waiting for disposal. He is advised to deal cases on priority without further delay.
8. A copy of this order be sent to Sh. Vipin Kumar (CO-cum-PIO) by name through registered post for his ready reference.
9. A copy of this order be also sent to the First Appellate Authority through registered post for the compliance of this order.
10. To come up on **07.06.2023 at 11:00 AM for further proceedings in the Commission.** Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Dated: 12.04.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Regd. Post

Sh. Vipin Kumar (EO-cum-PIO)
O/o MC, Mansa