

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

Visit us: - www.infocommpunjab.com



(Regd. Post) **Sh. Ranbir Singh (98146-20143),**
S/o SH. Subash Singh,
R/o Madhopur, Tehsil and District Pathankot.
Versus

Appellant

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

(Regd. Post) **First Appellate Authority,**
O/o State Transport Commissioner,
Punjab, Chandigarh.

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 4242 of 2021
Through CISCO WEBEX

Present: Appellant: Sh. Ranbir Singh
Respondent: Absent.

ORDER:

1. This case may be read with the reference to the previous order dated 16.05.2023.
2. After examining the case file, it is observed that **on first hearing held on 10.05.2022** respondent PIO was absent without intimation to the Commission and matter was adjourned for further hearing on 03.08.2022.
3. **On hearing held on 03.08.2022**, respondent PIO was directed to supply point-wise information within seven days from 03.08.2022 except personal information and matter was adjourned for further hearing on 12.10.2022.
4. **On hearing held on 12.10.2022**, respondents appeared intimated the Commission that tracing of the record is in process and requested for one month time, which was granted and matter was adjourned for further hearing on 30.11.2022, which was postponed to 14.03.2023.
5. **On hearing held on 14.03.2023**, respondent PIO was absent and final opportunity was awarded to him to supply information within ten days after receipt of order and matter was adjourned for further hearing on 16.05.2023.
6. **On hearing held on 16.05.2023**, appellant intimated the Commission that he had visited the respondent's office twice but nothing has been supplied to him. Respondent PIO was absent and Show Cause notice was issued to him along with directions to supply information within seven days after receipt of that order. Matter was adjourned for further hearing on 22.06.2023.
7. **In today's hearing i.e. 22.06.2023**, appellant states that no information has been supplied to the appellant even after the directions of the Commission time and again.

Respondent PIO is absent in spite of registered post order issued to him but he did not paid any heed towards the orders and notices issued to him time and again, which indeed a serious matter as he failed to perform his duties as a public servant.

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8. 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.
9. In view of the defying attitude of the concerned respondent PIO, Regional Transport Authority, Jalandhar neither attending the court on the fixed date and time 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.**
10. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the office of RTA, Jalandhar 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
11. A copy of this order be sent to the First Appellate Authority through registered post for the compliance of this order.
12. To come up on **06.09.2022 at 11:00 AM for further proceedings in the Commission.** Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Dated: 22.06.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab