

**PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,
SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.**

Ph: 0172-2864116, Email: - psic26@punjabmail.gov.in

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Shri Lajpat Rai Garg
S/o Shri Hasbans Lal
R/o Romana Street, Jaito
Tehsil Jaito, District Faridkot.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Addl.Chief Secretary,
Local Govt., Punjab,
Sector-35, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Addl.Chief Secretary,
Local Govt., Punjab,
Sector-35, Chandigarh.

....Respondents

AC No.4292 of 2022

Present: (i) **Shri Lajpat Rai, Appellant- in person.**
(ii) **None on behalf of PIO/Respondent..**

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 30.11.2022 passed by this Bench on the previous hearing.
2. The case has been heard today. Shri Lajpat Rai, comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench and states that no information has been supplied to the appellant.
3. Neither the PIO, Local Govt.-3 Branch, O/o Addl. Chief Secretary, Local Government Department, Punjab has come present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench or through cisco webex. The Bench observes that during the previous hearing, Shri Manoj Kumar had come present before the Bench and had sought additional time to enable them to supply information to the appellant and he also stated that similar information has already been supplied to the appellant in other appeal cases by the court of Hon'ble CIC and Hon'ble SIC Shri Sanjeev Garg. However, the Appeal Case numbers had not been specifically mentioned by him.
4. Today, the PIO, Local Govt.-3 O/o Principal Secretary, Local Govt. Deptt. has not come present nor has deputed any of his representative to attend the hearing on behalf of PIO nor any information has been supplied to the appellant. This lackadaisical attitude on the part of respondent is viewed adversely.

5. The PIO O/o Addl. Chief Secretary, Local Govt., Punjab 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 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. The PIO is directed to ensure to send point-wise information to the appellant before the next hearing as also ensure to come present in person before the Bench on the next hearing, failing which penal consequences shall follow.

8. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 15.02.2023 at 11.30 AM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh
05.01.2023

Copy to (By Regd.Post)

Public Information Officer
O/o Addl.Chief Secretary,
Local Govt., Punjab,
Sector-35, Chandigarh.

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