

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

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Ms. Ravinder Kaur (8054029295)

w/o Sh. Harjit Singh, C/o Sh. Parmjit Singh,
S/o Sh. Charan Singh, Guru Tegh Bahadur Nagar,
Handiaya Road, Barnala.

Appellant

Versus

SHOW CAUSE:-

(Regd. Post) **Public Information Officer,**
O/o G.M., Punjab Roadways, Jagraon Depot,
District Ludhiana.

Encl. RTI application

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

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 4406 of 2022
Through CISCO WEBEX

Present: (i) Appellant: Sh. Jagjivan Singh on behalf of the appellant.
(ii) Respondent: Absent

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 04.01.2023.
2. In today's hearing, representative of the appellant states that no information has been supplied to the appellant. He further adds that he has sent an email dated 30.03.2023, which is received by the undersigned Bench and taken on record.
3. Respondent PIO is not present for today's hearing but a letter no. 423 dated 14.02.2023 is received from the respondent in the Commission vide diary no. 4753 dated 20.02.2023 stating therein that due to network issue, respondent PIO was unable to attend hearing on 04.01.2023. In that letter respondent PIO further adds that RTI application of the appellant dated 23.02.2022 was received in the respondent's office on 25.02.2023 and consent letter was sent to the concerned person (information sought for) and the third party denied and same was intimated to the appellant through registered post (RP999206577IN), which was received back by the department with the comments from the postal services as "insufficient address". This letter is taken on record.
4. Commission takes a serious view of the casual approach of the Respondent / PIO towards the notices/orders issued by the Commission, as respondent PIO is not present to represent this case, due to this matter is pending for disposal.
5. In view of the foregoing, **respondent PIO, O/o The G.M., Punjab Roadways, Jagraon Depot, District Ludhiana is directed to Show Cause** in writing or through affidavit under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, as to why penalty should not be imposed upon him for wilful delay / denial of the information to the RTI applicant and why the compensation be not awarded to the appellant under Section 19 (8)(b) of the Act for detriment suffered.

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In addition to his submission, the PIO is also hereby given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso, thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may note that in case he does not file his submission and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing (through cisco webex) 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. The PIO is directed to clarify the facts of this case.

6. A copy of this order be also sent to the First Appellate Authority i.e. The STC, Punjab, Chandigarh through registered post for the compliance of this order and to look into the matter as RTI Act, 2005 came into existence to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, not for the harassment of the public.
7. This case is adjourned and both the parties are directed to come up on **19.07.2023 at 11:00 A.M. through CISCO-Webex**. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Steps to use CISCO WEBEX: Install CISCO Webex->Click on Join Meeting->Enter Meeting Number 1582933632.

Dated: 05.04.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab