

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864110, Helpline 0172-2864100

Email: pcic20@punjabmail.gov.in Visit us: www.infocommpunjab.com

Whatsapp No. 62848-20189



Sh. Harvinder Singh, S/o Sh. Narvair Singh,
158, Near Ganga Singh Haveli, Abadi Patti,
Mansoor, , Village Sultanwind Amritsar.-143006.
M : 9501004812

Appellant

Vs

Public Information Officer,
O/o SDM, Amritsar-I.

First Appellate Authority ,
O/o ADC , Amritsar.

Sh. Ram Krishan
District Revenue Officer
-cum-Public Information Officer
o/o Deputy Commissioner,
Amritsar.

Respondents

Appeal Case No. 450/2023

(Video Conference Proceedings)

Present:- Sh. Harwinder Singh, appellant.
None on behalf of the appellant.

ORDER

The RTI application is dated 6.9.2022 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter called FAA) on 5.11.2022 and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 6.1.2023 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter called RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for today.

2. The appellant submits that the respondent may be directed to supply the present status of complaint having ID No. 20210063561 dated 3.10.2021 which was submitted online through Digital Punjab Portal. None is present on behalf of the respondent. It is also a fact that the respondent-Public Information Officer o/o the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar wrongly transferred the RTI application of the appellant to the SDM, Amritsar-1 and as per the submissions made by the appellant that he has confirmed from Sh. Mohal Singh Steno o/o SDM Amritsar-1 that the office does not have any user/password regarding the complaints filed at Digital Punjab Portal.

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3. Video Conference Facility was introduced for the convenience of general public and for government officials. Viewing the attitude in dealing with the RTI application by the respondent casually, Sh. Ram Krishan, District Revenue Officer-cum- Public Information Officer, is, thus, issued a show cause notice to explain in a self-attested affidavit as to why a penalty @ Rs.250/- per day of delay subject to a maximum of Rs.25000/- till the complete information is furnished, be not imposed under Section 20(1) of RTI Act, 2005 on him for causing willful delay/denial of the information to the RTI applicant and to show cause why a compensation under section 19(8) of the RTI Act,2005, may not be paid to the appellant for causing willful delay/denial of the information for detriment suffered by him.

In addition to the written reply, the Public Information Officer is also 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 take a note that in case he does not file his written reply and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission will proceed ex-parte.

He is also directed to file the present status of the complaint as has been sought by the appellant.

4. To come up on 5.4.2023 at 12.30 PM to be heard through video conference facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar.

Dated:9.3.2023

sd
(Suresh Arora)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.