

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

**Ph: 0172-2864116, Email: - [psic26@punjabmail.gov.in](mailto:psic26@punjabmail.gov.in)**

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**Helpline No.0172-2864100(From 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM on working days)**



Shri Mandeep Singh  
S/o Shri Rattan Singh  
R/o Village Devi Nagar,  
Tehsil Dera Bassi,  
District S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)

.....Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer**

O/o Director, Local Govt., Punjab  
Punjab Municipal Bhawan,  
Sector-35, Chandigarh.

**First Appellate Authority**

O/o Director, Local Govt., Punjab  
Punjab Municipal Bhawan,  
Sector-35, Chandigarh.

....Respondents

**AC No.4513 of 2022**

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

**ORDER:**

1. The RTI application is dated 25.05.2022 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) on 16.07.2022 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 29.09.2022 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).

2. The notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 09.11.2022. Accordingly, the case has been heard today. Shri Mandeep Singh, appellant comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench and states that he has received information from the PIO, except the clarification which was given by the Executive Officer, Zirakpur Shri Rajesh Kumar on three points contained in letter No.38879/21 dated 17.09.2020 issued to Shri Rajesh Kumar by the office of Director, Local Govt., Punjab. Rather, he has been denied information, being personal information, under Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act.

3. The Bench, on hearing the version of the appellant, observes that departmental enquiry was conducted against the above said Rajesh Kumar. As such, the clarification given by him in pursuance of letter dated 17.09.2020 of the Directorate of Local Govt., Punjab be provided to the appellant.

4. The PIO O/o Director, Local Government, Punjab (Establishment Branch), Chandigarh 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 for

not supplying complete 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.

5. 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.

6. The PIO is directed to supply complete information to the appellant before the next hearing as also ensure to come present in person before the Bench on the next date of hearing, failing which, penal consequences shall follow.

7. In view of the above, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 06.12.2022 at 11.30 AM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

**Chandigarh  
09.11.2022**

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