



Shri Amarjit Singh Dhamotia,

60-35-P-330, Street No. 08, Maha Singh Nagar,
P.O. Dhandari Kalan, Ludhiana (141014) Punjab

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

(Regd. Post) O/o Principal Secretary, Local Govt. Punjab,
Chandigarh.

Encl. RTI application

First Appellate Authority

(Regd. Post) O/o Principal Secretary, Local Govt. Punjab,
Chandigarh.

....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 466 of 2023

**Present: i) Shri Amarjit Singh Dhamotia along with Shri Gurmej Lal, representative of the appellant -
through cisco webex.**

ii) None is present from the Respondent / PIO.

ORDER:

1. The RTI application is dated 07.10.2022 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 08.11.2022 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 06.01.2023 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).

2. The case has been heard today. Shri Gurmej Lal attends the hearing on behalf of the appellant through cisco webex and states that no information has been supplied to the Appellant so far.

3. Neither the PIO has come present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench nor through cisco webex nor he has deputed any of his representatives to attend the hearing on behalf of the PIO.

4. **Commission takes a serious view of the casual approach of the Respondent / PIO, as no information has been supplied to the appellant and today nobody appears from the department to represent this case.**

5. In view of the foregoing, respondent **PIO, O/o Principal Secretary, Local Govt., Punjab, Chandigarh 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.

6. 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 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. A copy of this order be also sent to the First Appellate Authority i.e. Principal Secretary, Local Govt. 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.

8. The PIO concerned is further directed to appear in person along with requisite information and related documents, on the next date of hearing before the bench.

9. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **Both the concerned parties are directed to come up for hearing on 16.05.2023 at 11.30 AM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

**Chandigarh
09.03.2023**

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