

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Sh. Sukhjinder Singh (9464579553)

S/o Shri Major Singh,

R/o Village Puhla Patti, Tehsil Nathana, District Bathinda.

Appellant

Versus

SHOW CAUSE:

Public Information Officer

(Regd. Post)

O/o EO, Nagar Panahcyat & Block Development,
Nathana, District Bathinda.

Encl. RTI application

First Appellate Authority

(Regd. Post)

O/o EO, Nagar Oanchyata & Block Development,
Nathana, District Bathinda.

Encl. RTI application

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 4734 of 2022

Through CISCO WEBEX

Present:

Appellant - Sh. Sukhjinder Singh is present.

Respondent: None is present from the Department.

ORDER:

1. This case may be read with the reference of the previous order dated 26.10.2022 and matter was adjourned for today i.e. 25.01.2023.
2. In today's hearing, appellant states that no information has been supplied to him.
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 despite of giving an opportunity to the PIO concerned on the last hearing but still nobody appears from the department today to represent this case.
5. In view of the foregoing, respondent **PIO, O/o The EO, Nagar Panchayat & Block Development, Nathana, District Bathinda** 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.

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.

6. A copy of this order be also sent to the **First Appellate Authority i.e. The EO, Nagar Panchayat & Block Development, Nathana, District Bathinda** 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. The PIO concerned is directed appear in person along with requisite information and related documents, on the next date of hearing before the bench.
8. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **Both the parties are directed to come up for hearing on 01.03.2023 at 11.00 AM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Dated: 25.01.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab