

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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(Regd. Post)	Sh. Manjinder Singh (9872015069) 2469, Sunny Enclave, Sector 125, Kharar, District Mohali (140301).	Appellant
Versus		
(Regd. Post)	Public Information Officer O/o Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Sangrur	
(Regd. Post)	First Appellate Authority O/o Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Sangrur.	Respondent
<u>Appeal Case No.: 475 of 2022</u> <u>Through CISCO WEBEX</u>		
Present:	Appellant: Sh. Manjinder Singh. Respondent: None is present from department.	

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 28.03.2023.
2. In today's hearing, Shri Manjinder Singh states that no information has been supplied to him in spite of earlier orders dated 10.08.2022, 18.10.2022 & 18.1.2023 and 28.03.2023 till date. He further adds that penalty of Rs.10,000/- was imposed upon the PIO concerned for non-compliance of orders of the Commission. He further states that he has not received with regard to his RTI application till date.
3. Perusal of the file shows that, notice of hearing was issued to the parties on 01.02.2022 by the undersigned Bench and dispatched on 03.02.2022 by the Registry Branch of the Commission for hearing fixed for 10.08.2022.
4. **On hearing held on 10.08.2022**, respondent PIO was absent and seven days were awarded to him to supply information after receipt of order. Matter was adjourned to 18.10.2022.
5. **On hearing held on 18.10.2022**, respondent PIO was absent second time and a **Show-Cause** notice was issued to him along with directions to supply point-wise information within seven days after receipt of order. A copy of this order along with RTI application was sent to him through registered post. Matter was adjourned to 18.01.2023.
6. **On hearing held on 18.01.2023**, respondent PIO was absent third time and **Penalty amounting Rs. 10,000/- was imposed on the concerned respondent PIO** as he did not bother to comply with the previous order of the Commission dated 10.08.2022 and 18.10.2022 even he did appear before the undersigned Bench. Matter was adjourned to 28.03.2023.
7. **On hearing held on 28.03.2023**, both the parties were present but hearing was adjourned to 17.05.2023 i.e. today.
8. Respondent PIO is absent in spite of registered post orders issued to him by the Commission. No communication for exemption or information is received from the respondent PIO after the previous hearing held on 28.03.2023, as he did not paid any heed towards the orders of the Commission, which only shows his causal and irresponsible behavior as a public servant which is not acceptable. He did not bother to appear once even after issuing show cause or imposing penalty. As per the case file, neither challan is received by the Commission nor did intimation regarding information supply, which means PIO is failed to perform his duties.

9. In view of forgoing, **penalty amounting Rs. 10,000/-which was imposed on the concerned respondent PIO vide order dated 18.01.2023 is enhanced from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 15,000/-**
10. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the office of RTA, Sangrur is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs. 15000/- from the salary of the concerned respondent PIO and be deposited in the State Treasury in the following Head of Account and to report its compliance to the Commission:-
 - "0070-Other Administrative Services
 - 60 other Services
 - 800-Other Receipts
 - 86-Fee under the RTI Act, 2005
11. A copy of this order be sent to the First Appellate Authority through registered post to look into the matter as RTA, Sangrur office showing irresponsible attitude towards the cases fixed by the Commission from so long and make sure concerned respondent PIO may appear on net date of hearing along with official record relates with this instant appeal case and other cases fixed for the same date.
12. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned for further hearing on **27.6.2023 at 11:00 A.M. at Punjab State Information Commission**. Copy of the order be sent to the parties through **registered post**.

Date: 17.5.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab