



Sh. Prem Singh S/o Sh Jaspal Singh,
VPO Amarpura, Tehsil Abohar,
Distt Fazilka.

... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o District Social Security Officer,
Bathinda.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Director, Deptt. of Social Security and
Women & Child Development, Pb
102-103, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 478 of 2021

PRESENT: None for the Appellant
Ms.Tevaspreet Kaur, DSSO Barnala for the Respondent

ORDER:

The case first came up for hearing on **23.06.2021** through video conferencing at DAC Fazilka. As per the appellant, the PIO had not provided the information.

The respondent was absent. The PIO was directed to provide information to the appellant if exists in the record within 15 days and send a compliance report to the commission. Failure to comply with the order would attract penal action under section 20 of the RTI Act.

On the date of the hearing on **26.10.2021**, the appellant informed that the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent was absent on 2nd consecutive hearing. There has been an enormous delay or more than one year in attending to the RTI application. The PIO was issued a **show-cause notice under section 20 of the RTI Act 2005 for not supplying the information within the statutorily prescribed period of time and directed to file an affidavit in this regard.** The PIO was again directed to provide information to the appellant within 10 days of the receipt of the order.

On the date of hearing on **09.03.2022**, the appellant was absent and vide email has sought adjournment.

The respondent was also absent nor had filed a reply to the show-cause notice.

The PIO was given one last opportunity to reply to the show-cause notice and appear personally on the next date of hearing otherwise it will be presumed that the PIO has nothing to say on the matter and the Commission will take penal action against the PIO under the provisions of section 20 of the RTI Act.

On the date of last hearing on **03.08.2022**, the appellant was absent.

The respondent presented pleaded that the requisite information has already been supplied to the appellant vide their letter dated 19.04.2021 and 11.05.2022. The respondent further pleaded that at the time of receipt of RTI application, Ms. Teavaspreet Kaur, was the District Social Security Officer at Bathinda and now posted at Barnala.

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Ms. Teavaspreet Kaur, the then District Social Security Officer, Bathinda and now posted at Barnala was directed to file reply a to the show cause notice on an affidavit before the next date of hearing. The Commission further directed Ms. Teavaspreet Kaur to be present personally at Chandigarh to explain her position.

Hearing dated 06.12.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Fazilka. Ms. Tavespreet Kaur, the earlier PIO, is present. She has filed her reply, which has been taken on record.

In the reply, the respondent has mentioned that the RTI application dated 29.09.2020 was attended to within time, and the reply was sent on 14.10.2020. Thereafter the appellant filed a first appeal on 24.11.2020 and a reply was sent to the appellant on 18.12.2020. In the meantime, she was transferred to Barnala where she joined as DSSO Barnala on 12.04.2021. And hence was not aware of the appeal case and thus could not inform the commission about the proceedings regarding this case.

She further pleaded that the non-attendance of hearings is not intentional, thus she should not be penalised for non-appearance of the current PIO.

The appellant is absent on 3rd consecutive hearing nor is represented.

Information stands provided. I accept the plea of the PIO and drop the show cause.

No further interference of the Commission is required. The case is **disposed of and closed.**

Chandigarh
Dated:06.12.2022

Sd/-
(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commissioner

Copy to :
Ms. Teavaspreet Kaur
Public Information Officer-cum-
District Social Security Officer
Barnala.