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Sh. Sanjeev Goyal, (M: 9814197689)

S/o Sh. Ashok Kumar # 148, Model Town, Phase- 1, Bathinda. Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer (By Name)

(Regd. Post) O/o SHO, Police Station City Rampura,

District Bathinda

First Appellate Authority

O/o IGP, Bathinda Range, Bathinda.

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 4960 of 2021 Through CISCO WEBEX

Present: Appellant - Sh. Sanjeev Goyal is present.

Respondent: ASI Sh. Gurdev Singh (9803438441) is present from the Department.

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 12.10.2022.

- 2. In today's hearing, appellant states that the respondent supplied irrelevant information which does not match with his RTI application.
- 3. The respondent states that they have supplied the information to the appellant on 15.9.2022. He further adds that nothing discrepancy has been received thereafter.
- 4. After examining the case file, it is observed that on the previous hearings dated 24.08.2022 and 12.10.2022; respondent PIO was absent and show cause notice was issued to him vide order dated 12.10.2022 and copy of previous order was sent to the respondent PIO through registered post but after the ample time has elapsed nothing is supplied to the appellant till yet even after the directions time and again on 24.08.2022 and 12.10.2022.
- 5. From the material on record, it transpires that there has been unnecessary delay in conveying the correct State of affairs to the appellant in respect to his request for information. No explanation for delay has been given by him. Rather, his failure to even respond to the directions issued to him by the Commission reinforces the fact that he has been without any reasonable cause guilty of remissness in the discharge of his duties, therefore, deserves to be penalized.
- 6. In view of the defying attitude of the concerned respondent PIO, Regional Transport Authority, Patiala neither attending the court nor submitting any explanation for the directions issued to him within the time schedule as prescribed under the RTI Act 2005, the court comes to a logical conclusion that it is a fit case for the imposition of penalty amounting to Rs. 5,000/- (Five thousand only) upon the concerned respondent PIO. However, taking a lenient view, I impose a penalty of Rs. 5,000/- (Rs. Five thousand only) on the respondent PIO.

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7. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the office of RTA, Patiala is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs. 5,000/- 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

8. To come up on **15.03.2023** at **11:00** AM for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Dated: 19.01.2023 (Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab