

**PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION  
RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,  
SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.**

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Shri Puneet Bali,  
S/o Shri R.C.Bali,  
H.no.23/C, Ravinder Nagar,  
Jalandhar-1.

.....Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer**

O/o PUDA,  
Mohali.

**First Appellate Authority**

O/o PUDA, Mohali.

....Respondents

**AC No. 4989 of 2022**

**Present:** i) Appellant- absent.  
ii) Shri Raj Kumar Bansal, Admn. Officer/PIO, PUDA, Mohali-cisco webex.  
iii) Shri Pawan Kumar, SDO Public Health/PIO, J.D.A. Jalandhar- in person.

**ORDER:**

1. The RTI application is dated 02.08.2022 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 04.09.2022 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 26.10.2022 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).

2. The notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 26.12.2022. Accordingly, the case has been heard today. Shri Puneet Bali, appellant has not come present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench or through cisco webex.

3. Shri Raj Kumar Bansal, PIO, PUDA, Mohali comes present to attend the hearing through cisco webex and states that the RTI application has been transferred to the PIO O/o J.D.A. Jalandhar. Shri Pawan Kumar, SDO Public Health, J.D.A. Jalandhar comes present in person before the Bench. He states that Point No.3 & 6 relate to District Town Planner, Jalandhar, point No.2 relates to Tehsildar, Jalandhar-1, point Nos.1,4 & 5 relate to PWD Jalandhar Cantt. to whom the RTI application has been transferred under Section 6(3) of RTI Act. Point No.7 & 8 relate to J.D.A. Jalandhar, information on which has to be given by D.T.P. Regulatory, J.D.A. Jalandhar.

4. The Bench observes that letters dated 13.12.2022 are available in the case file which have been received by post. The perusal of the same shows that the RTI application has been transferred under Section 6(3) to the PIO O/o District Town Planner, Jalandhar, PIO/ Tehsildar, Jalandhar-1 and PIO O/o PWD Provincial Office, Jalandhar Cantt. The Bench also observes that the PIO O/o D.T.P. Jalandhar has also sent letter to PIO O/o J.D.A. Jalandhar clarifying position on points relating to them. The PIOs referred are directed to supply information relating to them directly to the appellant on priority.

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5. From the perusal of the above said letters as also on hearing the version of the PIO O/o J.D.A. Jalandhar, the Bench observes that there are more than one PIO involved in the present appeal case. The Bench is of the view that the appellant cannot seek information in single RTI application from multiple public authorities. A Full Bench of State Information Commission, Punjab has in Complaint Case No.2903 of 2011 decided on 13.01.2012, ruled as under:-

“We hold that under Section (3) of the Act *ibid*, the legal obligation of a PIO who receives a request for information under Section 6(1) of the Act is limited to transfer this request to only one public authority that hold the information. This obligation does not extend to transfer the request to multiple authorities.

6. The Bench further observes that the information asked for by the appellant has to be collected, collated and compiled, thereby resulting in wastage of time of multiple PIOs involved. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in matter of CBSE vs. Aditya Bandopadhyay, (2011) 8 SCC 497, held as under:-

“67. Indiscriminate and impractical demands or directions under the RTI Act for disclosure of all and sundry information (unrelated to transparency and accountability in the functioning of public authorities and eradication of corruption) would be counterproductive as it will adversely affect the efficiency of the administration and result in the executive getting bogged down with the non-productive work of collecting and furnishing information. The Act should not be allowed to be misused or abused, to become a tool to obstruct the national development and integration, or to destroy the peace, tranquility and harmony among its citizens. Nor should it be converted into a tool of oppression or intimidation of honest officials striving to do their duty. The nation does not want a scenario where 75% of the staff of public authorities spends 75% of their time in collecting and furnishing information to applicants instead of discharging their regular duties. The threat of penalties under the RTI Act and the pressure of the authorities under the RTI Act should not lead to employees of a public authorities prioritizing “information furnishing”, at the cost of their normal and regular duties.

7. In view of the above, it does not seem to be appropriate for the appellant to seek information which may entail engaging 75% of the employees of a public authority to collect and compile the information for furnishing the same to the appellant. The Bench advises the appellant to go for seeking information by filing separate RTI application before a specific public authority who has its separate PIO.

8. With the aforesaid discussions, **the instant appeal case is disposed off and closed.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh  
26.12.2022

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