



Shri Gaurav Thakur,
S/o Surider Kumar Thakur,
29C, Old Jail Road,
Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation,
Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

....Respondents

AC No. 5146 of 2022

Present: (i) Shri Gaurav Thakur, Appellant- in person
(ii) None on behalf of PIO O/o Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

ORDER

1. The RTI application is dated 30.05.2022 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 26.07.2022 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 31.10.2022 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).
2. The notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 04.01.2023. Accordingly, the case has been heard today. Shri Gaurav Thakur, appellant comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench and states that he has not been provided any information so far.
3. Neither the PIO O/o Municipal Corporation, Amritsar has come present in person before the Bench nor through cisco webex.
4. The Bench observes that neither the PIO has come present to attend the hearing before the Bench nor he has deputed any of his representatives to attend the hearing. Moreover, he has also not given any intimation in this regard. This indifferent attitude and casual approach of the PIO is viewed adversely.
5. The PIO O/o Municipal Corporation, Amritsar is issued show cause notice to explain his absence and as to why action should not be taken against him and also as to why penalty should not be imposed in the instant case for failing to appear for the hearing and not supplying information to the appellant. He is also directed to file a written reply to the show cause notice as to why the appellant should not be compensated for the mental harassment suffered by him in getting the information.



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6. In addition to the written reply, the PIO is hereby given an opportunity u/s 20(1) proviso thereto for personal hearing before the imposition of such a penalty, on the next date of hearing. He may take note that in case he does not file the written reply 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.

7. The PIO is directed to ensure to send the information to the appellant before the next hearing as also ensure to come present in person before the Bench on the next hearing, failing which the Bench will be constrained to issue BAILABLE WARRANT to ensure his presence before the Bench.

8. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 15.02.2023 at 11.30 AM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

**Chandigarh
04.01.2023**

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

Copy to (By Regd.Post)

Public Information Officer
O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation,
Amritsar.