

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

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Helpline No.0172-2864100(From 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM on working days)**



Shri Ashok Kumar Watts,
H.No.B-V 1534, Street No.1,
Lajpat Nagar, Abohar
District Fazilka-152116.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Secretary, Local Govt., Punjab,
Punjab Municipal Bhawan,
Sector-35, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Principal Secretary,
Local Government, Punjab,
Punjab Municipal Bhawan,
Sector-35, Chandigarh.

....Respondents

AC No.5196 of 2022

Present: (i) **Appellant- absent.**
(ii) **None on behalf of the PIO/Respondent.**

ORDER:

1. The RTI application is dated 01.08.2022 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 06.09.2022 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 02.11.2022 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 Ashok Kumar Watts, appellant has not come present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench or through cisco webex.
3. Neither the PIO O/o Principal Secretary, Local Government, Punjab has come present in person before the Bench nor through cisco webex nor any intimation has been given in this regard.
4. The Bench, on perusal of case file, observes that the appellant has moved an application to the Commission for transfer of his Appeal Case No.5196 of 2002 as also certain other appeal cases filed in the Commission to another Bench and from the contents of the application, the appellant alleges partiality in disposal of the appeal cases by this Bench and has also made some allegations that some of the appeal cases have been disposed off without ensuring provision of information to the appellant.

5. The Bench is not in agreement with the contention raised in his application for transfer and the allegations made therein. The Bench vehemently denies such allegations of the appellant and is of the considered view that the appeal cases stated to have been disposed off arbitrarily by this Bench, had been disposed off after detailed hearing and due deliberations and considerations. The contentions raised by the appellant in the application seeking transfer of appeal case (s) are not only contemptuous in nature but also amount to Bench hunting. The Bench is of the view that such cases of Bench hunting need to be discouraged and thus, are not agreed to.

6. In view of the observations made above, the Bench does not agree with the request of the appellant for transfer of appeal case to another Bench and the same is turned down.

7. The Bench directs the PIO to supply information to the appellant point wise before the next hearing and ensure to come present in person before the Bench on the next hearing. The appellant is also advised to come present in person before the Bench on the next hearing.

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**