PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

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Smt. Baljinder Kaur W/o Sh. Makhan Singh, Village Sheikhpur, P.O Jaintipur, Tehsil Batala, Distt.Gurdaspur.

... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Director, Health Services, Pb, Sector-34-A, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Director, Health Services, Pb, Sector-34-A, Chandigarh.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 5198 of 2021

PRESENT: Sh. Makhan Singh husband of Smt.Baljinder Kaur as the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 27.08.2021 has sought information regarding a copy of the annual statement from 2014-15 of GPF account No.Para Medical 4637 – Balwinder Kaur up to 31.03.2020 and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of Director Health Services, Pb Chandigarh. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 02.03.2021 which tdid not decideon the appeal.

The case was first heard on 24.05.2022 through video conferencing at DAC Gurdaspur. The appellant's representative said the PIO had not supplied the information.

The respondent was absent nor represented.

The Commission having taken a serious view of this, issued a show cause notice to the PIO under section 20 of the RTI Act 2005 for not supplying the information within the statutorily prescribed period of time and directed to file reply of an affidavit.

Hearing dated 10.10.2022:

The case has come for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Gurdaspur. As per the representative of the appellant, the PIO has not supplied the information.

Given the loss and detriment suffered by the appellant during this long period in obtaining the information in the instant case, I find full justification in awarding the appellant with a suitable compensation. Therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred by Section 19(8)(b) of the RTI Act, 2005, a compensation of Rs.5000/- (Rupees five thousand only) is awarded to the appellant and directed the respondent to pay the compensation amount through a Bank Draft from the Bank Account of the Public Authority and confirmation to this effect will be furnished to the Commission by sending a copy of the bank draft.

The PIO is given one last opportunity to provide information to the appellant and file a reply to the show cause notice on an affidavit within 15 days of the receipt of the order.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **11.01.2023** at 11.00 AM through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur. The PIO is to appear at Chandigarh.

Chandigarh Dated: 10.10.2022

Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner