

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Sh. PawanGoyal (977956000)

General Secretary,

(SuchnaAdhikarManch),

26, AlhanaDhillon Colony, Opposite Mahindra College,
Patiala (147001)

Appellant

Versus

SHOW CAUSE:

Public Information Officer

(Regd. Post) O/o Regional Transport Authority,
Patiala.

Encl. RTI application

First Appellate Authority,

(Regd. Post) O/o Regional Transport Authority,
Patiala.

Respondent

Appeal case No.: 5209 of 2022
Hearing through CISCO Webex

Present: Appellant: Sh. PawanGoyal.
Respondent: Absent.

ORDER

1. This order may be read with the reference to the previous order dated 02.03.2023 vide which respondent PIO was absent and he was directed to supply the information to the appellant in connection with point number 1 within fifteen days after receipt of order. Matter was adjourned for further hearing on 26.04.2023.
2. In today's hearing, the appellant, Sh. Pawan Goyal states that the information in connection with point number 1 and 3 is pending instead of point no 1 only.
3. On the other hand, the respondent PIO is absent second time without any intimation to the Commission. Commission takes a serious view of the casual approach of the Respondent / PIO, as despite of giving an opportunity to the PIO concerned on the last hearing but still nobody appears from the department today to represent this case and moreover, no information has been supplied to the appellant.
4. In view of the foregoing, **respondent PIO, O/o The Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Patiala is directed to Show Cause** in writing or through affidavit under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, as to why penalty should not be imposed upon him for wilful delay / denial of the information to the RTI applicant and why the compensation be not awarded to the appellant under Section 19 (8)(b) of the Act for detriment suffered.

In addition to his submission, the PIO is also hereby given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso, thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may note that in case he does not file his submission and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing (through cisco webex) 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.

5. A copy of this order be also sent to the First Appellate Authority i.e. The RTA, Patiala through registered post for the compliance of this order and to look into the matter as RTI Act, 2005 came into existence to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, not for the harassment of the public.
6. This case is adjourned and both the parties are directed to come up on **22.06.2023 at 11:00 A.M. through CISCO-Webex**. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Steps to use CISCO WEBEX: Install CISCO Webex->Click on Join Meeting->Enter Meeting Number 1582933632.

Dated: 26.04.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab