

**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)**



(Regd. Post) Shri Lajpat Rai Garg,  
S/o Shri Harbans Lal, R/o Romana Street, Jaito,  
Tehsil Jaito, District Faridkot. (M: 98142-30616)

**Encl. Letter number 1959 dated 11.01.2023**

Versus

.....Appellant

**Public Information Officer**

O/o Director,  
Local Government, Punjab, Sector 34, Chandigarh.

**First Appellate Authority**

O/o Director,  
Local Government, Punjab, Sector 34, Chandigarh.

....Respondents

**AC No. 5371 of 2022**

**Present:** i) **Appellant: Shri Lajpat Rai Garg, in person.**  
ii) **None on behalf of Respondent / PIO.**

**ORDER:**

1. The RTI application is dated 24.08.2022 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 24.09.2022 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 09.11.2022 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).
2. The notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 12.01.2023. Accordingly, the case has been heard today. Shri Lajpat Rai Garg, appellant comes present in person. He states that no information has been received by him so far and also mentions about his common letter (for AC:5371/22 and 5372/22) dated 06.01.2023 which has been received by the Bench vide diary number 951 dated 06.01.2023, which is seen and taken on record.
3. Neither the PIO O/o Director, Local Govt. Punjab, Chandigarh has come present in person nor through cisco webex nor he has deputed any of his representatives to attend the hearing nor any information has been supplied to the appellant. This indifferent attitude of the PIO is viewed adversely.
4. The PIO O/o Director, Local Govt. Punjab, Chandigarh 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.

5. 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.

6. The PIO is directed to supply point-wise information to the appellant before the next hearing as also ensure to come present in person before the Bench on the next hearing.

7. 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.

Sd/-

**Chandigarh  
12.01.2023**

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

**P.S.: After the hearing of this case was over, Shri Kuldeep Singh, Superintendent from Directorate General Branch and Ms. Sarabjeet Kaur, Senior Assistant appeared before the Bench and submitted a letter number 1959 dated 11.01.2023 to the Bench, which is seen and taken on record. Both were apprised of the above said order. A copy of this letter be sent to the appellant along with this order through registered post. The PIO is directed to supply the information to the appellant through registered post and ensure his presence on the next date of hearing on 15.02.2023 at 11.00 a.m. before the Bench in the Commission's office at Chandigarh. The Show cause notice is withdrawn.**

Sd/-

**Chandigarh  
12.01.2023**

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