

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

**Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.**

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Appellant

Sh. Sarbjit Singh Minhas(9872258726)

RTI Activist,
H.No.1375, Street Chobna Wali,
Verka, Amritsar

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Director, State Transport Deptt., Pb.,
Chandigarh

First Appellate Authority

O/o Director, State Transport Deptt., Pb.,
Chandigarh

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 5498 of 2021
Through CISCO WEBEX

Present:

- (i) Appellant: Sh. Sarbjit Singh (On phone)
(ii) Respondent: Sh. Darshan Singh, SA at PSIC Office.

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 22.09.2022.
2. In today's hearing, both the parties are present.
3. Appellant, Sh. Sarabjit Singh Minhas states that information in connection with point no. 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 18 is still pending.
4. Respondent, Sh. Darshan Singh requests for an adjournment in this case.
5. After having detailed discussion with both the parties and examining the case file, it is observed that on first hearing dated 26.07.2022, Sh. Darshan Singh (SA) was present from the respondent department and inspection was fixed for 01.08.2022 to supply the complete information. Matter was adjourned to 22.09.2022.
6. On hearing held on 22.09.2022, appellant intimated the Commission that inspection was not done on 01.08.2022 even after waiting at the respondent's office till 4PM. A final opportunity was awarded to the respondent PIO to supply the information within ten days. Matter was adjourned to 15.11.2022 i.e. today.
7. It is observed that after giving opportunities to the respondent PIO time and again, complete information is still to be furnished by him, which is indeed a serious matter, as it also affects the disposal of the case and sheer wastage of precious time and resources of the Commission. Casual approach of the respondent PIO is viewed seriously in the instant appeal case
8. In view of the foregoing, **respondent PIO, Sh. Ikjot Dhawan O/o Director, State Transport Department, Punjab, Chandigarh is directed to show cause** in writing or through affidavit under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, as to why penalty be not imposed upon him for willful delay/ denial of the information to the RTI applicant and why the compensation be not awarded to the complainant 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 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.

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9. Respondent PIO is also directed to furnish the pending information to the appellant in connection with point no. 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 18 within ten days after receipt of this order.
10. Appellant is also advised to represent this case in person on the next date of hearing positively, failing which it will be presumed that he has nothing to say in this regard.
11. Matter is adjourned for further hearing on **08.02.2023 at 11:00 through CISCO WEBEX** application. Announced in the court. Copies of order be sent to the parties.

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

Dated: 15.11.2022

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Show-Cause

Sh. Ikjot Dhawan (PIO) (M: 7739677758)
O/o Director, State Transport Deptt., Pb.,
Chandigarh

Encl. RTI application