



Sh. Jagtar Singh Advocate (9217000330),
S/o Sh. Mohinder Singh,
R/o SAS Nagar, Gidderbaha, District Sri Muktsar Sahib.

Appellant

SHOW CAUSE

Versus

(Regd. Post) **Public Information Officer,**
O/o Block Development and Panchayat Officer,
Guruharsahai

Encl. RTI application

First Appellate Authority,
O/o District Development and Panchayat Officer,
Ferozepur.

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 549 of 2023
Through CISCO WEBEX

Present: Appellant: Sh. Jagtar Singh.
Respondent: Absent.

ORDER:

1. The RTI application dated 05.11.2021 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 second appeal was filed in the Commission on 10.01.2023 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for hearing for 05.07.2023 at 11.00 a.m. through CISCO WEBEX application.
2. In today's hearing, the appellant states that no information has been supplied to him and further requests for the same.
3. On the other hand, the respondent PIO is absent in spite of registered post notice issued to him by the Commission on 14.02.2023 (dispatched on 16.02.2023). Commission takes a serious view of the casual approach of the respondent PIO, as information is still pending and no one appears from the department today for clarifying the facts of this case.
4. In view of the foregoing, **respondent PIO, O/o BDPO, Guruharsahai 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 (through cisco webex) 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.

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8. Respondent PIO is directed to appear in person (through cisco webex) on the next date of hearing along with directions to supply the point-wise information to the appellant within ten days after receipt of this order under intimation to the Commission.
9. Appellant is advised to go through the information, once he had received and point out discrepancy within seven days in writing to the respondent PIO with a copy to the Commission, failing which it will be presumed that he has nothing to say in this regard.
10. The matter is adjourned **for further hearing on 20.09.2023 at 11:00 AM through cisco webex meetings software**, failing which case will be decided on merit basis. Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

(Steps to use CISCO WEBEX: Install CISCO Webex->Click on Join Meeting->Enter **Meeting Number 25145855727, Password: 12345**).

Dated: 05.07.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab