

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

**Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
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Sh. Gurmej Lal(9781672776)

Whistle Blower,
NCAG, Street No.5, # 1331-5,
Vishwawarma Bhawan, Down Canal Road,
Simplapuri, Ludhiana-141003.

Appellant

Versus

Show-Cause

Public Information Officer

(Regd. Post) O/o EO, Nagar Council, Patti
Encl. RTI application

First Appellate Authority

O/o EO, Nagar Council, Patti

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 5523 of 2022
Hearing through CISCO Webex

Present: Appellant- Sh. Gurmej Lal
Respondent: absent.

ORDER:

1. The RTI application is dated 14.07.2022 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 6.9.2022 and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 14.11.2022 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).
2. Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for hearing through CISCO WEBEX on 18.4.2023 i.e. today.
3. In today's hearing, appellant, Sh. Gurmej Lal states that no information has been supplied to him till date.
4. Respondent PIO is absent in spite of registered post notice issued to him by the Commission Which means he has casual approach towards the notice of the Commission as well as to the RTI Act, which came into existence to promote transparency and accountability of public authorities. Absence of the respondent PIO is viewed seriously.
5. After hearing the appellant and examining this case file, it is observed that RTI application was filed by the appellant on 14.07.2022 and notice of hearing was issued by the Commission on 20.12.2022 for today's hearing but after the ample time has elapsed, concerned PIO did not bother to supply the requisite information and failed to perform his duties as a public servant.
6. In view of the foregoing, **respondent PIO, O/o EO, Nagar Council, Patti 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.

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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.

7. Respondent PIO is directed to supply the point-wise information as per RTI application to the appellant within ten days after receipt of this order under intimation to the Commission along with directions to deal this case on priority basis.
8. **Matter is adjourned for further hearing 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: 18.04.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab