

**PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,
SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.**

Ph: 0172-2864116, Email: - psic26@punjabmail.gov.in

**Visit us: - www.infocommpunjab.com, Cisco Webex Code:15857-23975
Helpline No.0172-2864100(From 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM on working days)**



Shri Bhanu Manhas,
S/o Shri Balkar Singh,
H. No.310, Ward No.18,VPO Mamoon,
Tehsil & District Pathankot.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Punjab Urban Planning and
Development Authority(PUDA),
Secor-62, Mohali.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Punjab Urban Planning and
Development Authority(PUDA),
Sector-62, Mohali.

....Respondents

AC No.5978/2022

Present: (i) **Appellant- absent.**
(ii) **Shri Raj Kumar Bansal, Admn.Officer/PIO, PUDA, Mohali-cisco webex.**
(iii) **Shri Pawan Kumar, SDO/PIO, Public Health, Jalandhar Development Authority, Jalandhar- cisco webex.**

ORDER:

1. The RTI application is dated 08.08.2022 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 17.09.2022 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 30.11.2022 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).
2. The notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 08.02.2023. Accordingly, the case has been heard today. Shri Bhanu Manhas, appellant has not come present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench or through cisco webex.
3. Shri Raj Kumar Bansal, Administrative Officer/PIO, PUDA, Mohali comes present to attend the hearing through cisco webex and states that the RTI application was transferred to PIO O/o Jalandhar Development Authority, Jalandhar and Amritsar Development Authority, Amritsar.
4. Shri Pawan Kumar, SDO (PH), J.D.A. Jalandhar comes present to attend the hearing through cisco webex. He states that since the matter relates to Revenue Department, the RTI application has been transferred to Deputy Commissioner, Jalandhar.
4. From the perusal of contents of the RTI application as also hearing the version of the respondents, the Bench observes that the information sought by the appellant relates to a number of PIOs. The Bench also observes from the version of the representative of PIO that the information sought by the appellant relates to the issues which entails collection, collating and compilation of information from more than one PIO.

Cont..P-2

5. The Bench, as per observations made above, is of the view that the appellant cannot seek information in single RTI application from multiple public authorities. A Full Bench of State Information Commission, Punjab has in Complaint Case No.2903 of 2011 decided on 13.01.2012, ruled as under:-

“We hold that under Section (3) of the Act *ibid*, the legal obligation of a PIO who receives a request for information under Section 6(1) of the Act is limited to transfer this request to only one public authority that hold the information. This obligation does not extend to transfer the request to multiple authorities.

6. The Bench further observes that the information asked for by the appellant has to be collected, collated and compiled, thereby resulting in wastage of time of multiple PIOs involved. The Hon’ble Supreme Court in matter of CBSE vs. Aditya Bandopadhyay, (2011) 8 SCC 497, held as under:-

“67. Indiscriminate and impractical demands or directions under the RTI Act for disclosure of all and sundry information (unrelated to transparency and accountability in the functioning of public authorities and eradication of corruption) would be counterproductive as it will adversely affect the efficiency of the administration and result in the executive getting bogged down with the non-productive work of collecting and furnishing information. The Act should not be allowed to be misused or abused, to become a tool to obstruct the national development and integration, or to destroy the peace, tranquility and harmony among its citizens. Nor should it be converted into a tool of oppression or intimidation of honest officials striving to do their duty. The nation does not want a scenario where 75% of the staff of public authorities spends 75% of their time in collecting and furnishing information to applicants instead of discharging their regular duties. The threat of penalties under the RTI Act and the pressure of the authorities under the RTI Act should not lead to employees of a public authorities prioritizing “information furnishing”, at the cost of their normal and regular duties.

7. In view of the above, it does not seem to be appropriate for the appellant to seek information which may entail engaging 75% of the employees of a public authority to collect and compile the information for furnishing the same to the appellant. The Bench advises the appellant to go for seeking information by filing separate RTI application before a specific public authority who has its separate PIO.

8. In view of the aforesaid observations, **the instant appeal case is disposed off and closed.** Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Chandigarh
08.02.2023

Sd/-
(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma(Retd))
State Information Commissioner, Punjab