

**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 Kuldeep Singh
S/o Shri Piara Singh
R/o Village Bhateri,
Tehsil Bassi Pathana,
District Fatehgarh Sahib.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Sub Divisional Officer,
Sub Division, Rural, PSPCL,
Morinda, District Ropar.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Executive Engineer (Rural)
PSPCL, Kharar, Distt. Mohali.

....Respondents

AC No.6046/2022

Present: (i) **Shri Kuldeep Singh, Appellant- in person.**
(ii) **None for the PIO**

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 08.02.2023 passed by this Bench on the previous hearing.
2. The case has been heard today. As per appellant, despite order of the Bench, he has not been provided the information yet.
3. During last hearing, the Bench observed that though prima-facie, on perusal of RTI application, the information sought seemed to be personal and third party information. However, post deliberation with the appellant, it emerged that the factory which is being set up is in the proximity of village Bhateri, the village of appellant entails serious environmental hazards and noise pollution. The issue raised by the appellant, is thus, in the larger public interest. As such the Bench over-ruled the contention of the PIO's view regarding denying the same under section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act and directed the PIO to supply point-wise information to the appellant except the document which is construed to contain personal information.
4. The PIO is absent nor is represented and has also not complied with the order of the Bench. The Bench has taken a serious view of this and hereby directs the PIO O/o Sub Divisional Officer, Sub-Division Rural, PSPCL, Morinda, District Ropar to **show cause why penalty be not imposed on him under section 20 of the RTI Act 2005 for not supplying the information within the statutorily prescribed period of time. He/she should file an affidavit in this regard.** If there are other persons responsible for the delay in providing the information, the PIO is directed to inform such person(s) of the show cause and direct them to appear before the Bench along with the written replies.

5. The PIO O/o Sub Divisional Officer, Sub-Division Rural, PSPCL, Morinda, District Ropar is now directed to call the appellant to his office on any working day and allow him access to the official records. After inspection of records by the appellant, the information as is identified by the appellant be provided to him duly attested by the PIO before the next hearing. The PIO is directed to ensure that official records related to RTI application of the appellant are presented for examination and documents as identified are given duly attested by the PIO. The PIO is also directed to come present in person before the Bench to attend the next hearing.

6 With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 20.07.2023 at 11.30 AM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh
30.05.2023

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