

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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(Regd. Post) **Sh. Gurbachan Singh (9877200096)**
S/o Sh. Gian Singh,
R/o Vill. Tibbi Arian, PO Makhu,
Tehsil Zira, Distt. Ferozepur.

Appellant

Versus

Show-Cause

(Regd. Post) **Public Information Officer**
O/o BDPO, Makhu,
Tehsil Zira, Distt. Ferozepur.

Encl. RTI application

(Regd. Post) **First Appellate Authority**
O/o DDPO, Makhu,
Tehsil Zira, Distt. Ferozepur

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 635 of 2023
Hearing through CISCO Webex

Present: Appellant: Sh. Gurbachan Singh
Respondent : Absent

ORDER

1. The RTI dated 13.5.2022 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 23.8.2022 and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 13.1.2023 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for hearing for 30.5.2023 through CISCO WEBEX application.
2. In today's hearing the appellant is present but nobody appears on behalf of the respondent department.
3. The appellant states that sufficient time has elapsed he is yet to receive the information from the respondent.
4. The respondent is absent in spite of registered notice.
5. After hearing the appellant in detail and examining the case file, it is observed that the appellant filed RTI application on 13.05.2022 and still he is struggling to collect the information but respondent PIO did not bother to pay heed towards the directions of the Commission time and again.
6. In view of the foregoing, **respondent PIO, O/o The BDPO, Makhu, Tehsil Zira, Distt. Ferozepur 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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7. Respondent PIO is directed to appear in person (through cisco webex) on the next date of hearing along with directions to send the requisite information as per RTI to the appellant within ten days after receipt of this order.
8. A copy of this order be sent to the First Appellate Authority through registered post for the compliance of this order.
9. Both the parties are directed to **come up for hearing on 12.09.2023 at 11:00 AM through cisco webex meetings software**, failing which case will be decided on merit basis. Copy of the order be sent to the concerned parties through **registered post**.
(Steps to use CISCO WEBEX: Install CISCO Webex->Click on Join Meeting->Enter Meeting Number 1582933632).

Date: 30.5.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab