

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Sh. Jasbir Singh (9888296107),
Guru Nanak Nagar,
Village Bholapur Jhabewal, PO Ramgarh,
District Ludhiana (141123)

Appellant

Versus

(Regd. Post) Public Information Officer,
O/o Secretary,
Regional Transport Authority,
Ludhiana.

(Regd. Post) First Appellate Authority,
O/o Secretary,
Regional Transport Authority,
Ludhiana.

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 65 of 2023
Through CISCO WEBEX

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

ORDER:

1. This case may be read with the reference to the previous order dated 04.05.2023.
2. After examining the case file, it is observed that appellant filed RTI application on 03.10.2022 and for non-furnishing the information he filed First Appeal to the First Appellate Authority on 07.11.2022 and second appeal in the Commission on 22.12.2022.
3. Notice of hearing was issued to the parties on 16.01.2023 by the undersigned Bench and was dispatched on 17.01.2023 for hearing on 04.05.2023. It is observed that ample time was there from 17.01.2023 to 04.05.2023 but respondent PIO did not bother to represent this case or for supplying the requisite information. Accordingly, show cause notice was issued to the respondent PIO on 04.05.2023 as he was absent without intimation even after issuing the registered post notice to him by the Commission. Commission takes a serious view of the casual approach of the Respondent PIO as it leads to wastage of precious time and resources of the Commission.
4. From the material on record, it transpires that there has been unnecessary delay in conveying the correct State of affairs to the appellant in respect to his request for information. No explanation for delay has been given by him. Rather, his failure to even respond to the directions issued to him by the Commission reinforces the fact that he has been without any reasonable cause guilty of remissness in the discharge of his duties, therefore, deserves to be penalized.
5. In view of the defying attitude of the concerned respondent PIO, Regional Transport Authority, Ludhiana neither attending the court nor submitting any explanation for the directions issued to him within the time schedule as prescribed under the RTI Act 2005, the court comes to a logical conclusion that it is a fit case for the **imposition of penalty amounting to Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five thousand only) upon the concerned respondent PIO.** However, taking a lenient view, **I impose a penalty of Rs. 5,000/- (Rs. Five thousand only) on the respondent PIO.**

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6. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the office of RTA, Ludhiana is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs. 5000/- from the salary of the concerned respondent PIO and be deposited in the State Treasury in the following Head of Account and to report its compliance to the Commission:-
 - "0070-Other Administrative Services
 - 60 other Services
 - 800-Other Receipts
 - 86-Fee under the RTI Act, 2005
7. A copy of this order be sent to the First Appellate Authority through registered post for the compliance of this order.
8. To come up on **06.09.2022 at 11:00 AM for further proceedings in the Commission.**
Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Dated: 22.06.2023

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab