

**PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,
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Shri Jasbir Singh,
Guru Nanak Nagar, Village Bholapur,
Jhabewal, P.O:Ramgarh, Distt:Ludhiana.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Principal Secretary,
Housing and Urban Development, Punjab,
Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Principal Secretary,
Housing and Urban Development, Punjab,
Chandigarh.

....Respondents

AC No. 673 of 2023

Present: i) **Shri Jasbir Singh the appellant – in person**
ii) **None on behalf of the respondent.**

ORDER:

1. The RTI application is dated 22.10.22 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 28.11.2022 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 17.01.2023 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).
2. The case has been heard today. The appellant states that no information has been supplied to him by the respondent so far.
3. Neither the PIO nor his representative comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench or through cisco webex.
4. The Bench observes that the PIO has absented himself from the hearing today and has also not given any intimation to the Bench regarding the same. This indifferent attitude and casual approach towards the directions of the Bench is viewed adversely. The PIO O/o **Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, Punjab** is issued show cause notice to explain his absence and as to why action should not be taken against him and also as to why penalty should not be imposed in the instant case for failing to appear for the hearing and not supplying information to the appellant. He is also directed to file a written reply to the show cause notice as to why the appellant should not be compensated for the mental harassment suffered by him in getting the information.
5. In addition to the written reply, the PIO is hereby given an opportunity u/s 20(1) proviso thereto for personal hearing before the imposition of such a penalty, on the next date of hearing. He may

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take note that in case he does not file the written reply 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.

6. The PIO is directed to supply point-wise information to the appellant before the next hearing as also ensure to come present in person before the Bench on the next hearing and bring along the copy of information supplied as also the original record for perusal of the Bench and the appellant, failing which the Bench will be constrained to issue BAILABLE WARRANT to ensure his presence before the Bench.

7. With the above directions, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 17.07.2023 at 11.30 AM before the Bench in Commission's Office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Sd/-

Chandigarh
11.05.2023

(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma (Retd))
State Information Commissioner