

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

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**Helpline No.0172-2864100(From 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM on working days)**



Shri K.N.S.Sodhi,  
#1634, Sector 70,  
Mohkali.

Versus

.....Appellant

**Public Information Officer**

O/o Director, Local Govt., Punjab,  
Municipal Bhawan, Sector-35, Chandigarh.

**Public Information Officer**

O/o Commissioner,  
Municipal Corporation, Mohali.

**First Appellate Authority**

O/o Director, Local Bodies., Punjab,  
Municipal Bhawan, Sector-35, Chandigarh.

....Respondents

**AC No. 1285 of 2022**

**Present:**

- (i) **Shri K.N.S. Sodhi, Appellant- in person.**
- (ii) **None on behalf of the PIO/Respondent.**

**ORDER:**

1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 27.09.2022 passed by this Bench on the previous hearing.
2. The case has been heard today. Shri K.N.S. Sodhi, appellant comes present in person before the Bench to attend the hearing. He states that no information has been supplied to him.
3. The PIO O/o Municipal Corporation, Mohali has neither come present in person before the Bench nor through cisco webex. However, as stated during the previous hearing, the information being voluminous, the appellant was called for inspection of records vide letter dated 27.09.2022 to identify the information required by him.
4. On the asking of the Bench, if he could visit the office of PIO to inspect the records, the appellant states that he is aggrieved by the reply given to him by the PIO vide letter dated 15.01.2022 wherein the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has been quoted by the PIO and is inappropriate as he has sought information in the public interest. He also states that he had also received a letter dated 04.12.2021 from the PIO wherein derogatory remarks were given against him and he wants to know the name of PIO at that time who had written the said letter. However, the Bench observes that letter dated 04.12.2021 vide which the appellant alleges derogatory remarks by the PIO against him, is not available in the case file.

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5. Since the PIO has not come present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench nor through cisco webex nor he has deputed any of his representative to attend the hearing, the casual approach of the PIO towards the directions of the Bench is viewed adversely. The PIO 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 for 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.

6. 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 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.

7. Post deliberations, the Bench directs the PIO to give point-wise reply to the appellant by registered post & by e.mail before the next hearing. The PIO (Shri Sunil Sharma) is directed to come present in person before the Bench on the next hearing as also bring along the entire relevant record and produce the same before the Bench for perusal of the appellant.

8. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 24.11.2022 at 11.30 AM in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

**Chandigarh  
01.11.2022**

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

**Copy to (By Regd.Post):**

**PIO/Executive Engineer, Municipal Corporation, S.A.S.Nagar (Mohali).**