

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 04.00PM on working days))



Shri Rakesh Kumar Gupta,
Advocate,
8 / 237, Jagraon Road,
Mandi Mullanpur,
District Ludhiana.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

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

Public Information Officer/

Superintendent, Establishment Branch,
O/o Director, Local Govt., Punjab,
Municipal Bhawan, Sector 35, Chandigarh.

Public Information Officer

The Superintendent, General Branch,
O/o Director, Local Govt. Punjab,
Municipal Bhawan,
Sector 35, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority

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

....Respondents

AC No. 862 of 2021

Present:

- (i) The appellant-absent.
- (ii) Shri Aman Kumar, Senior Assistant, Establishment Branch O/o Director, Local Govt., Punjab, Chandigarh-In person.
- (iii) Smt. Sandeep Kaur, Senior Assistant along with Smt. Harvir Kaur, Sr. Assistant Local Govt.-3 Branch, O/o Principal Secretary Local Government, Punjab- in person.

ORDER

1. This order may be read with the reference of the order dated 30.01.2023 passed by this Bench on the previous hearing.
2. The case has been heard today. Shri Rakesh Kumar Gupta, appellant has not come present to attend the hearing either in person or through cisco webex.
3. Shri Aman Kumar, Senior Assistant, Establishment Branch, O/o Director, Local Govt., Punjab comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench and states that as directed by the Bench, during the last hearing, the information has again been supplied vide letter dated 22.02.2023 to the appellant by registered post.
4. Smt. Sandeep Kaur, Senior Assistant, Local Govt.-3 Branch comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench and files reply mentioning therein that number of letters dated 10.08.2021, 21.10.2021 and 27.12.2021 have been written to the appellant asking him to prove the public interest involved in seeking the information of Junior Engineer Shri Suresh Bagai but no response has been received from the appellant till date. The Bench, however, does not agree to this and observes that appellant can seek information without assigning any reason.
5. The appellant is contacted on his mobile phone and apprised of the version of the respondent. He, however, expresses his dis-satisfaction and reiterates that no information has been provided regarding the officials mentioned in the RTI application.
6. Post deliberations, the Bench does not agree with the contention of the respondent for seeking purpose for providing information showing public interest involved from the appellant. I overrule the statement of the respondent and direct the PIO/Superintendent, Local Govt.-3 Branch and PIO O/o Principal Secretary, Local Govt. to call the appellant to office and allow him access to the relevant records and the information as is identified by the appellant after inspection of records be provided to him before the next hearing.
7. The PIO/Superintendent, Establishment Branch O/o Director, Local Govt., Punjab and the PIO/Superintendent, Local Government-3 Branch Office of Principal Secretary, Local Govt., Punjab are directed to come present in person before the Bench on the next hearing. The appellant is also advised to come present in person before the Bench on the next hearing failing which the case may be decided based on documents available on file.
8. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 10.05.2023 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
07.03.2023

(Lt Gen Ajay Kumar Sharma (Retd))
State Information Commissioner, Punjab