

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

Ph: 0172-2864116, Email: - psic26@punjabmail.gov.in

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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) **Shri Rakesh Kumar Gupta – Appellant – in person**
- (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 Sh.Prashant. Clerk- Local Govt.-3 Branch, O/o Principal Secretary Local Government, Punjab- in person.**

ORDER

1. This order may be read with the reference to the order dated 10.05.2023 passed by this Bench on the previous hearing.
2. The case has been heard today. 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 the information has been supplied to the appellant vide letter dated 13.04.2023 by registered post.
3. Smt. Sandeep Kaur, Senior Assistant, Local Govt.-3 Branch comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench and reiterates that the record relating to correction in date of birth of Shri Sukhdev Singh Randhawa is not traceable and they are trying to trace the same. Further enquiry on different complaints filed against the officer for tempering the date of birth is pending with the department and on completion of enquiry, information will be provided.
4. As per appellant, except information related to Shri Sukesh Kumar Bagai, he has not been provided the information relating to other four persons. The appellant alleges that there has been tempering with their educational qualification and date of birth documents and these documents are not being made available to him on one pretext or the other.
5. Since there is a serious issue of public interest involved and corruption at department level as alleged by the appellant, the information must be provided. Hence under the powers vested under section 18(2) of the RTI Act, an enquiry is seriously recommended at Vigilance level to be ordered by the department of Local Govt. The case is marked to Secretary, Department of Local Govt Punjab for review of the issue highlighted and ordering the investigation into the alleged scam.

6. 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.

7. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. Since I am demitting the office on 4th August 2023 and I am left with little time to hear the case further, this case file is sent to the Deputy Registrar to place this case file before the Hon'ble Chief Information Commissioner for re-allocation of the instant appeal case.

**Chandigarh
13.07.2023**

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

**CC to Secretary,
Department of Local Govt. Punjab
Sector 35, Chandigarh.**