# **PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION** Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

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Sh Rajkumar Dhiman, S/o Sh Harbans Lal, Street Ward No 30C. Shri Devaji Residency, Dhakoli, Zirakpur, Distt Mohali-160104 .....Appellant .Vs **Public Information Officer**, O/o DC, Mohali **First Appellate Authority** O/o DC, Mohali .....Respondent

#### AC No. 1426 of 2022

PRESENT: (i) Sh Rajkumar Dhiman, Appellant

(ii) For the Respondent: Sh Jagdeep Singh, Supdt. (98769-98882)

# **ORDER:**

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 27.10.2022 vide which the Respondent-PIO was directed to file their point-wise specific reply on the next date of hearing, ie. today.

- 2. Today, the Appellant states that no information has been given to him so far.
- 3. As directed in the previous hearing, the Respondent has filed their affidavit as under:-
  - "1. That as per the information sought by the applicant it is pertinent to mention here that letter/File No PB-161045/2020-21/NCPCR/EDU dated 04.08.2020 was not received by this office. Regarding this the undersigned enquired from the concerned RIA branch who deals in receipt and dispatch of all the correspondence in DC Office. As per their written letter no 331/RIA Dated 17.11.2022 they have informed that the said application was not received by their branch either manually or through computerised record. Hence as per official record the said application was not received by this Office."
- 4. After perusing the documents placed on record, it is ascertained that the PIO O/o DC Mohali had transferred the RTI of the Appellant to PIO O/o DEO (SE) SAS Nagar u/s 6(3) of the RTI Act. However, during the hearing dated 11.07.2022 the Appellant had stated

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that the information pertains to the PIO O/o DC, Mohali only. Hence, the matter was adjourned to be heard on 17.08.2022 with directions to the PIO O/o DC, Mohali to appear on the next date of hearing. However, on 17.08.2022, no one appeared on behalf of the Respondent and hence, a show-cause notice was issued to PIO O/o DC, Mohali and the case was adjourned to be heard on 27.10.2022.On 27.10.2022 the Respondent stated that they have provided the information to the Appellant however, the Appellant stated that the same is irrelevant. Hence, the case was adjourned to be heard on 23.11.2022 ie. today.

Today, the Respondent has filed their affidavit. I have gone through the same and do not agree with it.

5. In view of the defying attitude of the respondent-PIO, the Bench comes to a logical conclusion that it is a fit case for the imposition of penalty on the PIO, o/o DC, Mohali. Therefore, taking a lenient view, I impose a penalty of **Rs. 5000/- (Rs. Five thousands only) on PIO, o/o DC, Mohali**. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the office of DC, Mohali is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs. 5000/- from the salary of PIO, o/o Dc, Mohali and 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"

6. To come up on **16.01.2023 at 12:00PM** in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

**Chandigarh 23.11.2022** 

(Amrit Partap Singh Sekhon) State Information Commissioner Punjab

CC: (i)DC, Mohali (for compliance) (through registered post)

(ii) PIO-Sh Vipan Bhandari, DRO 0/o DC Mohali (through registered post)