



Prem Singh S/o Sh. Kehar Singh,
Village – Jawandpur,
Tehsil – Sri Khadoor Sahib,
Distt. – Tarn Taran(Punjab)
(M. 7087604780)

....Appellant

V/s

(Regd. Post) Public Information Officer,
O/o The District Development
and Panchayat Officer,
Tarn Taran(Punjab)

First Appellate Authority,
O/o The Additional Deputy Commissioner
(Urban Development),
Tarn Taran(Punjab)

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5285 of 2021

Present : Sh. Prem Singh, the appellant in person.
i) Sh. Harjit Singh, B.D.P.O.(M.-8146913200), Sh. Rajwant Singh,
Panchayat Secretary (M.-9876407327), on behalf of the respondent.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 28.10.2022, vide which a show cause notice was issued to the respondent-PIO, o/o DDPO, Tarn Taran.

2. Today , the appellant, Sh. Prem Singh, states that incomplete information has been given to him by the respondent PIO
3. Sh. Harjit Singh, B.D.P.O.(M.-8146913200), states that he has brought the information today in the Commission, which is handed over to the appellant .
4. The appellant has gone through the same and states that the information provided by the respondent is incomplete and not readable.
5. After hearing the parties and going through the case file, it is observed that on the last date of hearing, a show cause notice was issued to the PIO, o/o DDPO, Tarn Taran, but today neither he has appeared before the Commission nor he filed reply to the show cause notice issued to him. This shows that the respondent - PIO has no regard for the orders issued by the Commission.



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6. The respondent may note that the RTI Act 2005 is meant for promoting transparency in governmental functioning by bringing to light governmental actions done behind closed doors so that the common man is kept well informed of the goings on in the public authorities with a view to strengthening democracy.

7. I am, therefore, left with no other option but to decide the question of imposition of penalty upon PIO, o/o DDPO, Tarn Taran in his absence and without the benefit of any reply by him. From the material on record, it transpires that there has been unnecessary delay in conveying the correct State of affairs to the appellant in regard to his request for information. Rather, his failure to even respond to the show cause direction by the Commission reinforces the fact that he has been without any reasonable cause guilty of remissness in the discharge of his duties. He is, therefore, deserves to be penalized. As the delay is of more than three months, maximum penalty of Rs. 25000/- could be imposed upon, the delinquent PIO. However, taking a lenient view, I impose a penalty of Rs. 10000/- on him. He is directed to deposit this amount in the Treasury before the next date of hearing. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer ,o/o Director Rural Development and Panchayats, Mohali is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs. 10,000/- from the salary of **Respondent- PIO O/o DDPO, Tarn Taran** and deposited in the State Treasury in the following Head of Account and to report its compliance to the Commission before the next date of hearing:-

"0070-Other Administrative Services

60 other Services

800-Other Receipts

86-Fee under the RTI Act, 2005"

8. To come up on **16.01.2023 at 12.00 PM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Amrit Partap Singh Sekhon)

Date : 23rd November, 2022

**State Information Commissioner
Punjab**

(Regd. Post)

The Director,
Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab,
Vikas Bhawan, Sector 62, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) (Punjab) **to take
necessary action**