

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,

SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.

Ph: 0172-2864112, Email: - psic23@punjabmail.gov.in

Visit us: - www.infocommpunjab.com; Helpline No. 0172-2864100



Shri Bhupinder Kumar, (95695 34445)

S/o Shri Darshan Lal,

Village Bazidpur,

Distt. Ferozepur.

....Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o District Development & Panchayat Officer,

Ferozepur.

....Respondent

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0267 OF 2022

(Cisco Webex Proceedings)

PRESENT: None for the Parties.

ORDER:

The RTI application is dated 02.06.2021 whereby the Complainant has sought information as mentioned in his RTI application. He filed complaint in the Commission on 06.05.2022 under Section 18 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act) and Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 04.10.2022.

2. Both the parties are absent from today's hearing.

3. In these circumstances, it is relevant to invite the attention of the Complainant to the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India rendered on 12.12.2011 in Civil Appeal Nos. 10787-10788 of 2011 (arising out of SLP(C) No. 32768-32769/2010) - Chief Information Commissioner and another Vs. State of Manipur and another, in Para 31 whereby, it has been held that while entertaining a complaint case under Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005. The Commissioners have no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for an access to the information. As such, since the complainant has approached the Commission under the provision of Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005, no directions for providing further information can be given by the Commission. Since there is an alternative and efficacious remedy of first appeal available to the Complainant under section 19 (1) of the RTI Act, 2005, which has not been availed in the instant case and the First Appellate Authority has not had the occasion to review the decision of the PIO, as envisaged under the RTI Act by passing a detailed well reasoned speaking order.

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-02-

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0366 OF 2022

4. Since there is an alternative and efficacious remedy of first appeal available to the Complainant under section 19 (1) of the RTI Act, 2005, which has not been availed in the instant case and the First Appellate Authority has not had the occasion to review the decision of the PIO, as envisaged under the RTI Act by passing a detailed well reasoned speaking order.

5. In case the Complainant has any grouse about the provided information, he is advised to challenge the response of the PIO, before the designated First Appellate Authority, as envisaged under section 19 (1) of the RTI Act, 2005, who will decide the matter in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act within the prescribed time limit, after giving an opportunity of hearing to all concerned, by passing a speaking order.

6. Accordingly, this case is hereby, remanded back to the First Appellate Authority who is directed to decide the RTI application afresh as per provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

7. If, however, the Complainant does not feel satisfied with the decision of the First Appellate Authority, he will be at liberty to file a Second Appeal before the Commission under section 19 (3) of the RTI Act, 2005.

8. In view of the observations noted above, the instant Complaint Case is hereby, **Disposed Off and Closed.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Chandigarh
04.10.2022

Sd/-
(Maninder Singh Patti)
State Information Commissioner Punjab

Copy is forwarded to the following for intimation and further necessary action along with RTI application dated 02.06.2021.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Additional Deputy Commissioner,
Urban Development,
Ferozepur.