

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.
Ph: 0172-2864115, Email: - psic25@punjabmail.gov.in
Visit us: - www.infocommpunjab.com
Helpline No. 0172-2864100



Ramandeep Singh Ahluwalia,
Ward No.18, Street No.2,
Kartar Nagar, Amloh Road,
Khanna - 141401, District Ludhiana(Punjab)
(M.- 94645-00405)

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Executive Officer,
Nagar Council, Mandi Gobindgarh(Punjab)

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

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 2899 of 2022

Present : Sh. Ramandeep Singh Ahluwalia , the appellant in person.
Sh. Kulbir Singh Brar, EO, (98143-89097), Sh. Gurpreet Singh, ME-APIO
(9877626210) and Sh. Kewal Singh, Je (9464737480)

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous orders, passed by the Commission.

2. The brief facts of the case is that the Appellant had sought certain information under the Right to Information Act of 2005(hereinafter referred to as the Act) vide application dated 14.11.2021.

3. Since, the information sought by the Appellant in the aforesaid Application was not furnished to him, therefore, he filed the First Appeal before the First Appellate Authority (FAA).

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4. Being aggrieved by the non-receipt of the information the Appellant filed the present Second Appeal before this Commission, which was taken up for first hearing on 10.08.2022.

5. After examining the case file, it is observed that today is the fourth hearing of this case in the Commission and the appellant is not satisfied with the information provided. A close scrutiny of the questions asked for by the Appellant and the answers given by the respondents reveals that, sufficient information/reply has been furnished by the Respondent. But the appellant is not satisfied with the same. The appellant, however, is unnecessarily dragging the matter.

6. It is observed that Sh. Ramandeep Singh Ahluwalia is an RTI Activist and is habitual of filing RTI applications without realizing the practical difficulties which the Public Authorities have to face. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Civil Appeal No.6454 of 2011 titled as Central Board of Secondary Education Vs Adiitya Bandopadhyay and ors. has rightly observed that 75% of the staff of public authorities spends 75% of their time in collecting and furnishing information to applicants under the RTI Act. It has further been observed by the Apex Court that Act should not lead to employees of public authorities prioritizing 'information furnishing' at the cost of their normal and regular duties.

7. It has also been observed that this behaviour towards the public authorities and the Bench is not conducive. He does not hesitate to cast aspersions on the bench during the hearing of his appeal case (s). This behaviour of the appellant needs to be curbed with a heavy hand.

8. Hence, it would be appropriate that the matter is referred to a Larger bench/Full bench headed by the Hon'ble Chief Information Commissioner, Punjab for due consideration and taking an appropriate final decision in the matter.

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9. In view of the foregoing, the case file is sent to Deputy Registrar for placing the same before the Hon'ble Chief Information Commissioner for appropriate orders.

Sd/-

Date : 16th November, 2022

(Amrit Partap Singh Sekhon)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

D.R (With original case file)