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... Appellant

Sh.Brichh Bhan S/o Sh.Saroop Chand, R/o H No-33, Kathangarh Road, Patran, Distt Patiala.

Versus

**Public Information Officer,** 

O/oSGPC, Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority,

O/oSGPC,

Amritsar. ...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 2583 of 2021

PRESENT: None for the Appellant

Sh.Simarjit Singh, PIO for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant through an RTI application dated 18.02.2021 has sought information regarding year-wise details of cloth purchased from the year 2015 to Dec.2020 and other information as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of SGPC Amritsar. The appellant was not provided with the information after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the first appellate authority on 12.04.2021 which took no decision on the appeal.

The case last came up for hearing on 13.10.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar/Patiala.

The appellant was absent and vide email sought adjournment. In the said email, the appellant informed that the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent was absent and vide email sought some more time to provide the information on the plea that the sought information is voluminous.

#### **Hearing dated 02.02.2022:**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar/ Patiala. The respondent has sought some more time to complete the information since the information is voluminous and has to be collected from 78 different Gurdwaras.

The appellant is absent and vide email has sought adjournment.

Since the information is voluminous, I accept the plea of the respondent and grant one more opportunity to provide complete information to the appellant within 15 days of the receipt of the order and send a compliance report to the Commission.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **21.03.2022** at 11.00 AM through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar. The appellant to appear through VC at DAC Patiala.

Chandigarh Dated: 02.02.2022 Sd/(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commissioner

#### **PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**

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... Appellant

Sh Ramesh Kumar, S/o Lt Sh Amar Nath, H NO-4-1652, Sardar Nagar, Ajnala Road, Police Station S.J.S Avenue, Amritsar.

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o IGP, Border Range, Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority, O/o IGP, Border Range, Amritsar.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 2043 of 2021

**PRESENT:** Sh.Ramesh Kumar as the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant through an RTI application dated 20.11.2020 has sought information regarding the rules/instruction manual on the basis of which reinvestigation in case No.83/18 filed in police station Raja Sansi as per office memo No.1106/43766/B.R-AC dated 07.12.2019 was ordered and a copy of the order/rule under which further enquiry can be rejected and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of IGP Border Range, Amritsar. The appellant was not provided with the information after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 07.12.2020 which took no decision on the appeal.

The case last came up for hearing on **22.11.2021** through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. The appellant claimed that the PIO has not supplied the information.

As per the respondent, the appellant wanted the reinvestigation report and since the reinvestigation report has been submitted in the court and they do not have such a report, the information cannot be provided.

The Commission was not in agreement with the reply of the respondent as the appellant had asked for the copy of the order/rule on the basis of which reinvestigation was done and a copy of rule/order vide which further enquiry was rejected.

The case was marked to the SSP, Amritsar (Rural) with the direction to reconcile this case and resolve the matter at the earliest by providing a copy of the rule/order related to the RTI.

#### Hearing dated 02.02.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. As per the appellant, the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent is absent nor is represented.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **29.03.2022 at 11.00 AM** through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar.

Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commission

Chandigarh Dated: 02.02.2022

**CC to SSP Amritsar(Rural)** 

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Sh. Ramesh Kumar, S/o Sh. Amar Nath, H No-4-1652, Sardar Nagar, Opposite Old Central Jail, Amritsar.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,** 

O/o SSP, (Rural), Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o SSP, (Rural), Amritsar.

...Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 3585 2020** 

PRESENT: Sh.Ramesh Kumar as the Appellant

None for the Respondent

#### ORDER:

The appellant through an RTI application dated 21.07.2020 has sought information regarding a copy of correspondence made/follow up done by the police Station Raja Sansi against Vinod Kumar, Neeraj Kumar and Vikramjit Sharma on the order of the court dated 05.12.2019 and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of SSP(Rural), Amritsar. The appellant was not provided with the information after which the appellant filed the first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 25.08.2020 which took no decision on the appeal.

The case was first heard on 24.03.2021 through video conferencing at Amritsar. The respondent present pleaded that the case is pending cancellation in court.

The Commission received a reply from the PIO through email which was taken on the file of the Commission. In the reply, the PIO stated that as per the report of the concerned SHO, the case was wrongly registered and the cancellation report has been filed in the court of SDJM Radhika Puri which is pending in the said court and the reply has been sent to the appellant.

The appellant was not satisfied since the appellant merely wants that what action/follow up was done by the police on the order of the court.

The PIO was directed to relook the RTI application and if any follow up was done by the police, it be provided or replied as per the status.

On the date of the last hearing on **01.11.2021**, the appellant was absent and vide email has sought exemption on medical grounds. In the said email, the appellant further informed that the PIO has not supplied the information. The case was adjourned.

#### Hearing dated 02.02.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. As per the appellant, the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent is absent.

## **Appeal Case No. 3585 2020**

I am marking this case to the IGP border Range, Amritsar to get this case reconciled at the earliest and provide the information as sought under the RTI application, for the information that is being provided is arbitrary and not as per the RTI application.

To come up for further hearing on **29.03.2022 at 11.00 AM** through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar.

Chandigarh Dated 02.02.2022 Sd/(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commissioner

CC to: IGO-Border Range, Amritsar

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Sh. Ramesh Kumar, S/o Sh. Amar Nath, H No-4-1652, Sardar Nagar, Opposite Old Central Jail, Amritsar.

... Appellant

...Respondent

**Public Information Officer,** 

O/o IGP, Border Range,

Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o IGP, Border Range, Amritsar.

Appeal Case No. 3587 2020

PRESENT: Sh.Ramesh Kumar as the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant through RTI application dated 20.08.2020 has sought information regarding the decision of IGP Border Range Amritsar on the application dated 25.07.2020 – directions given to SSP to ensure time bound action and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of IGP Border Range, Amritsar. The appellant was not provided with the information after which the appellant filed the first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 05.09.2020 which took no decision on the appeal.

Versus

The case first came up for hearing on 24.03.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. Having gone through the record, the Commission observed that the RTI application is not legible.

The appellant was directed to submit a typed legible copy of the RTI application to the Commission for the commission to pursue this case further.

On the date of the last hearing on **01.11.2021**, the appellant was absent and vide email sought exemption on medical grounds. In the said email, the appellant further informed that the PIO has not supplied the information.

#### Hearing dated 02.02.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. The appellant has not sent a typed legible copy of the RTI application.

The respondent is absent.

I am marking this case to the IGP Border Range, Amritsar to get this case reconciled at the earliest and provide the information as sought under the RTI application, for the information that is being provided is arbitrary and not as per the RTI application.

To come up for further hearing on **29.03.2022 at 11.00 AM** through a video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar.

Chandigarh Dated 02.02.2022 Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner

CC to: IGP, Border Range,

Amritsar.

## PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Sh. Ramesh Kumar, S/o Sh. Amar Nath, H No-4-1652, Sardar Nagar, Opposite Old Central Jail, Amritsar.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,** O/o SSP, (Rural), Amritsar.

**First Appellate Authority,** O/o SSP, (Rural), Amritsar.

...Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 3588 2020** 

PRESENT: Sh.Ramesh Kumar as the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The case first came up for hearing on 24.03.2021 through video conferencing at Amritsar. The respondent present pleaded that the case is pending cancellation in court.

The Commission received a reply from the PIO through email which was taken on the file of the Commission. In the reply, the PIO has stated that as per the report of the concerned SHO, the case was wrongly registered and the cancellation report has been filed in the court of SDJM Radhika Puri which is pending in the said court and the reply has been sent to the appellant.

The appellant was not satisfied since the appellant merely wants only copies of applications/memos sent by SSP to police station Raja Sansi for action relating to FIR No.83/18. The PIO was directed to relook the RTI application and provide the information as per the RTI application.

During the hearing, the Commission observed that the official, who had appeared in the Commission on behalf of the PIO did not know the etiquette of appearing in a court hearing. In spite of repeated cautions, the official's phone kept ringing and he kept taking the calls. This behaviour was clearly not acceptable during a hearing, and the commission marked this observation to the SSP for a suitable warning to the official. The SSP may also take necessary steps to educate PIOs about their conduct while appearing for hearings at the commission.

On the date of last hearing on **01.11.2021**, the appellant was absent and vide email sought exemption on medical grounds. In the said email, the appellant further informed that the PIO has not supplied the information. The case was adjourned.

#### Hearing dated 02.02.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. As per the appellant, the PIO has not supplied the information.

## <u>Appeal Case No. 3588 2020</u>

I am marking this case to the IGP Border Range, Amritsar to get this case reconciled at the earliest and provide the information as sought under the RTI application, for the information that is being provided is arbitrary and not as per the RTI application.

To come up for further hearing on **29.03.2022 at 11.00 AM** through a video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar.

Chandigarh Dated 02.02.2022 Sd/(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commissioner

CC to: IGP, Border Range, Amritsar.

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Sector 16, Chandigarh.

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Sh. Ramesh Kumar, S/o Sh. Amar Nath, H No-4-1652, Sardar Nagar, Opposite Old Central Jail, Amritsar.

... Appellant

**Public Information Officer**,

O/o SSP, (Rural), Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o SSP, (Rural), Amritsar.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 3589 2020

PRESENT: Sh.Ramesh Kumar as the Appellant

None for the Respondent

#### ORDER:

The appellant through the RTI application dated 03.08.2020 has sought information regarding copies of statements of witnesses and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of SSP(Rural) Amritsar. The appellant was not provided with the information after which the appellant filed the first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 09.09.2020 which took no decision on the appeal.

Versus

On the date of the first hearing on 01.11.2021, the respondent present pleaded that the case is pending cancellation in court.

The Commission received a reply from the PIO through email which was taken on the file of the Commission. In the reply, the PIO has stated that as per the report of the concerned SHO, the case was wrongly registered and the cancellation report has been filed in the court of SDJM Radhika Puri which is pending in the said court and the reply has been sent to the appellant.

The appellant was not satisfied with the reply since the appellant merely wanted the statement of witnesses who appeared during the enquiry proceedings relating to FIR No.83/18 filed in Police Station Raja Sansi.

The PIO was directed to relook the RTI application and provide the information as per the RTI Act.

On the date of the last hearing on **01.11.2021**, the appellant was absent and vide email has sought exemption on medical grounds. In the said email, the appellant further informed that the PIO has not supplied the information. The case was adjourned.

#### **Hearing dated 02.02.2022:**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. As per the appellant, the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent is absent.

I am marking this case to the IGP Border Range, Armtisar to get this case reconciled at the earliest and provide the information as sought under the RTI application, for the information that is being provided is arbitrary and not as per the RTI application.

To come up for further hearing on **29.03.2022 at 11.00 AM** through a video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar.

Chandigarh Dated 02.02.2022 Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner

CC to: IGP, Border Range, Amritsar.

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Sh. Ramesh Kumar, S/o Sh. Amar Nath, H No-4-1652, Sardar Nagar, Opposite Old Central Jail, Amritsar.

... Appellant

Public Information Officer,

O/o SSP, (Rural), Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority, O/o SSP, (Rural),

Amritsar. ...Respondent

Versus

Appeal Case No. 3607 of 2020

PRESENT: Sh.Ramesh Kumar as the Appellant

None for the Respondent

#### ORDER:

The appellant through the RTI application dated 01.07.20 has sought information regarding a copy of the enquiry report bearing No.1606-IGP dated 06.09.2018 and 581-IGP/2019 conducted by Shl.Harpal Singh, PPD then SP Investigation and Sh.Baljit Singh PPS then SP Headquarter Amritsar and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of SSP (Rural) Amritsar. The appellant was not satisfied with the reply of the PIO dated 07.07.2020 after which the appellant filed the first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 18.08.2020 which took no decision on the appeal.

The case last came up for hearing on 24.03.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. The respondent present pleaded that the case is pending cancellation in court.

The Commission received a reply from the PIO through email which was taken on the file of the Commission. In the reply, the PIO has stated that as per the report of the concerned SHO, the case was wrongly registered and the cancellation report has been filed in the court of SDJM Radhika Puri which is pending in the said court and the reply has been sent to the appellant.

The appellant was not satisfied since the appellant wanted the enquiry report dated 06.09.2018 which was conducted by Shl.Harpal Singh, PPS, (then SP Investigation), and Sh.Baljit Singh PPS (then SP Headquarter Amritsar).

The PIO SSP was directed to relook the RTI application and provide the information as per the RTI application.

The case was marked to the SSP to ensure compliance and to provide information as per the RTI Act and if need be, the appellant be called to the office to clarify and resolve the matter. Since case nos 3585/2020, 3587/2020, 3588/2020 & 3589/2020 are also of the same nature the SSP was directed to intervene in the matter and ensure that a suitable reply is filed in each of the mentioned cases.

### Appeal Case No. 3607 of 2020

On the date of last hearing on **01.11.2021**, the appellant was absent and vide email has sought exemption on medical grounds. In the said email, the appellant further informed that the PIO has not supplied the information. The case was adjourned.

#### Hearing dated 02.02.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. As per the appellant, the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent is absent.

I am marking this case to the IGP Border Range, Amritsar to get this case reconciled at the earliest and provide the information as sought under the RTI application, for the information that is being provided is arbitrary and not as per the RTI application.

To come up for further hearing on **29.03.2022 at 11.00 AM** through a video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar.

Chandigarh
Dated 02.02.2022

Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner

CC to: IGP, Border Range, Amritsar.

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Sh. Surjit Singh, Village.Aujla Dhak, P.O Lidhar Kalan, Distt. Jalandhar.

... Appellant

**Public Information Officer,** 

O/o XEN,
Water Supply and Sanitation Division-2,
Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o SE,

Water Supply and Sanitation Circle, Amritsar.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 2141 of 2020

Versus

PRESENT: None for the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER: Facts of the case:

That the appellant through RTI application dated 16.03.2020 has sought information regarding details of tenders issued for work got done from 01.03.2019 to 15.03.2020 in subdivisions under Amritsar Division2 —a copy of bills passed for the work done for annual maintenance - a copy of cash books — a copy of quotation registers — the name of SDOs along with monthly travelling allowance bills and other information as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of Xen Water Supply and Sanitation Division No.2 Amritsar The appellant was not provided with the information after which the appellant filed first appeal before the first appellate authority on 28.04.2020 which took no decision on the appeal.

That the case first came up for hearing on 25.02.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. Due to a technical fault in VC at Amritsar, the hearing could not take place. The case was adjourned.

On the date of the hearing on **18.05.2021**, both the parties were absent. The case was adjourned.

That on the date of the hearing on **31.08.2021**, the appellant was absent and vide email informed that the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent was absent on 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive hearing nor had supplied the information. There has been an enormous delay of more than one year and five months in attending to the RTI application. The PIO was issued a **show-cause notice under Section 20** of the RTI Act 2005 for not supplying the information within the statutorily prescribed period of time and directed to file a reply on an affidavit.

The PIO was again directed to provide information to the appellant within 10 days of the receipt of the order and send a compliance report to the Commission.

On the date of the last hearing on **22.11.2021**, both the parties were absent.

#### Appeal Case No. 2141 of 2020

The PIO also did not file a reply to the show-cause notice. The PIO was given one last opportunity to file a reply to the show-cause notice otherwise it will be presumed that he has nothing to say in the matter and the case will be decided ex-party.

That the case has come up for **hearing today** through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar/ Jalandhar. The respondent is again absent nor has filed a reply to the show-cause notice.

Keeping the above-mentioned facts of the case, it is clear that the PIO is flouting the spirit of the RTI Act continuously. The PIO has not only shown utter disregard for the Commission's repeated orders to provide the information but has shown willful stubbornness in not replying to the Show Cause and not appearing before the commission despite various orders. As per records, Sh.Mandeep Singh, Xen is the PIO -Water Supply &Sanitation Division No.2, Amritsar.

To secure an erring PIO's presence before the commission, the Information Commission is empowered to issue warrants to Under Section 18(3) of the RTI Act. A bailable Warrant of the Sh.Mandeep Singh-PIO-cum-Xen, Water Supply &Sanitation Division No.2, Amritsar is hereby issued through Senior Superintendent of Police Amritsar for his presence before the Commission on **21.03.2022**.

The PIO is also directed to provide the information within ten days of receipt of this order The PIO- Xen, Water Supply &Sanitation Division No.2, Amritsar is also directed to be present alongwith the relevant record on the next date of hearing.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **21.03.2022 at 11.00 AM**. The appellant is to appear through VC at DAC Jalandhar.

Chandigarh Dated:02.02.2022

Sd/(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commissioner

BAILABLE WARRANT OF PRODUCTION

**BEFORE** 

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH STATE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER. PUNJAB

**AT CHANDIGARH** 

In case:Surjit Singh Aujala V/s Public Information Officer, Xen, Water

Supply & Sanitation Division No.2, Amritsar

APPEAL CASE NO. 2141 of 2020

**UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005** 

Next Date of Hearing: 21.03.2022

To

The Senior Superintendent of Police,

Amritsar.

Whereas Sh.Mandeep Singh, Xen-cum-Public Information

Officer- Water Supply &Sanitation Division No.2, Amritsar, has failed to

appear before the State Information Commissioner, Punjab despite the

issuance of notice/summon in the above mentioned appeal case.

Therefore, you are hereby directed to serve this bailable warrant to

Sh.Mandeep Singh-Xen-cum-PIO, Water Supply & Sanitation Division

No.2, Amritsar to appear before the undersigned at Red Cross Building,

Near Rose Garden, Sector 16, Chandigarh on 21.03.2022 at 11.00 AM.

Chandigarh Dated:02.02.2022

(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commissioner