PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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FINAL ORDER (REGISTERED)

BhimSain Singla

s/o Miri Mal Kothi opposite PSEB, MK Road, Dhuri, District Sangrur – 148 024

Versus

Public Information Officer

o/o Director General of Police, Punjab Police Headquarters, Sector 9, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority

Inspector General of Police (Headquarters)
Punjab Police Headquarters,
Sector 9, Chandigarh.

Appeal Case No. 4009 of 2019

ORDER:

- 1. This RTI application is dated 22.4.2019 vide which, the appellant has sought <u>information</u> <u>regarding his complaint bearing Diary No. 916/FO16/PS, DGP PB dated 4.4.2018, in six points</u>, as enumerated in his RTI application. First Appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on 9.8.2019, and this Second Appeal was filed to the Commission on 24.10.2019, under Section 19 of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. This case was last heard on 20.11.2020.
- 2. **FIRST HEARING:** This case was first heard on **27.12.2019**, wherein the respondent PIO, represented by Assistant Sub-Inspector Jasminder Singh submitted a reply to this Commission's Notice of 25.11.2019 contending that the information requested in this RTI application pertains to an investigation that was completed by the AIG Crime Ludhiana Zone. Claiming however, that the aforesaid inquiry report was still under consideration of senior officers, the respondent sought exemption from disclosing the information requested by the appellant Bhim Sain Singla.

However, contesting the respondent PIO's contention, the appellant, represented by his counsel, H.C. Arora, produced a copy of an affidavit submitted to the Punjab & Haryana High Court in CRM-M No. 17061 of 2019, wherein a Punjab Police officer (DSP Karanvir Singh, PPS) has stated that the aforementioned inquiry report has been 'seen and filed' by the office of the DGP Punjab on 9.10.2019.

In view of the above, the respondent PIO was directed to produce the original record pertaining to this RTI application at the next / Second hearing of this Appeal Case.

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- 3. **SECOND HEARING:** On 19.2.2020, the respondent PIO, represented by Assistant Sub-Inspector Ravinder Singh and Head Constable Rattandeep Singh, failed to comply with the Commission's Order of 27.12.2019 and repeated their earlier contention that investigation / inquiry report (cited in this RTI application) was 'still under consideration of senior police officers'. Cautioning the respondents against any further lapses / non-compliance, the Commission once again directed them to produce the original record / file / investigation report along with supporting documents, as ordered to on 27.12.2019.
- 4. **THIRD HEARING:** On 31.7.2020 both parties were absent. While the appellant sought a short adjournment vide his email the same day, the respondent PIO remained absent without any intimation. However, in view of the extraordinary circumstances arising from the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, the respondent was granted yet another opportunity to comply with the Commission's Orders of 27.12.2019 and 19.2.2020. As per the request of the appellant, the next hearing of this Appeal Case was notified to be conducted via CISCO WEBEX.
- 5. **FOURTH HEARING:** Owing to technical difficulties with CISCO WEBEX, an attempt was made to conduct proceedings via video conferencing. However, neither party was available, hence the case was once again adjourned.
- 6. **FIFTH HEARING:** On 20.11.2020, the respondent PIO, represented by Assistant Sub-Inspector Jitender Khanna, appeared with the original record pertaining to this RTI application, as he was ordered to on 27.12.2019 and 19.2.2020. The respondent was directed to prepare legible photocopies of all the six letters / reports requested in the RTI application and submit these in a Sealed Cover to the Commission after duly attesting all copies. The respondent was given five days to comply with the afore-stated directions.
- 7. In compliance with this Commission's directions, the respondent PIO-cum-AIG (Admin) o/o Bureau of Investigation Punjab, submitted 279 duly attested pages vide his Letter No. 4486/Crime/INV-2 dated 27.11.2020.
- 8. This Commission has examined the contents of the information furnished by the respondent PIO, and is of the considered view that the same be handed over to the appellant in disposal of this Appeal Case. The appellant / his Counsel can collect the information furnished by the respondent PIO, from the office of this Bench after making an appointment on any working day.
- 9. With no further cause for action, this Appeal Case is, herewith, **CLOSED**.

Sd/(ASIT JOLLY)
State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh 5.2.2021