## PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

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Sh Kulbir Singh, Sarpanch, Village Suresh Wala, Tehsil & Distt Fazilka.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,** 

O/o District Food & Civil Supplies Deptt, Fazilka.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o District Food & Civil Supplies Deptt, Fazilka.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 3076 of 2021

PRESENT: None for the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant through an RTI application dated 25.01.2021 has sought information regarding a copy of the order/report on the basis of which ration cards were issued and discontinued relating to village Suresh Wala – details of ration cards issued and closed during 2019-20 and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of District Food Supply department, Fazilka. The appellant was not provided with the information after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 02.03.2021 which took no decision on the appeal.

The case last came up for hearing on 05.01.2022 through video conferencing at DAC Fazilka. The respondent present pleaded that the information has been provided to the appellant vide letter dated 09.12.2021. The respondent further pleaded that since the information was to be verified from the concerned BDPO, which they received from the BDPO only on 04.12.2020, and sent to the appellant on 09.12.2021.

There was nothing on the record that showed that the RTI application was attended to within the time prescribed under the RTI Act since the RTI application was filed on 25.01.2021 whereas the reply was sent only on 09.12.2021 with a delay of more than eleven months. 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.** 

### Hearing dated 09.03.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Fazilka. The appellant is absent.

The respondent is also absent nor has filed a reply to the show-cause notice. The PIO is given one last opportunity to file a reply to the show-cause notice and appear personally on the next date of hearing otherwise it will be presumed that the PIO has nothing to say on the matter and the Commission will take penal action against the PIO as per provisions of section 20 of the RTI Act.

To come up for further hearing on **03.08.2022** at 11.00 AM through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Fazilka.

Sd/Chandigarh (Khushwant Singh)
Dated: 09.03.2022 State Information Commission

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Sh Raman Kumar S/o Sh Girdhari Lal, R/o H No-1021, Aggarwal Street, Ward NO-12, Jalalabad, Distt Fazilka.

... Complainant

Versus

**Public Information Officer**,

O/o District Food Supply Controller, Room, No-407-A, Block-A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Fazilka.

...Respondent

Complaint Case No. 917 of 2021

PRESENT: None for the Appellant

None for the Respondent

#### ORDER:

The complainant through an RTI application dated 05.05.2021 has sought information regarding the posting of inspector Rajinder Pal and Hira Lal from April 2020 to Sept.2020 during the distribution of wheat under PMKGY-1 and Oct 2020 to March 2021 during PMKGY-2 – details of wheat and gram received per member and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of District Food Supply Controller, Fazilka. The complainant was not provided with the information after which the complainant filed a complaint in the Commission on 13.07.2021.

The case last came up for hearing on 05.01.2022 through video conferencing at DAC Fazilka. The respondent present pleaded that the available information has been provided to the complainant vide letter dated 03.01.2022 and the information relating to point-2 is available on their website and that no specific information relating to point-5 is available.

The complainant claimed that the PIO has supplied information with a delay of more than six months.

The Commission observed that the RTI application was filed on 05.05.2021 whereas the information was provided only on 03.01.2022. Prima facie there has been an enormous delay 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 an affidavit in this regard.

### Hearing dated 09.03.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Fazilka. The appellant is absent.

The respondent is also absent nor has filed a reply to the show-cause notice. The PIO is given one last opportunity to file a reply to the show-cause notice and appear personally on the next date of hearing otherwise it will be presumed that the PIO has nothing to say on the matter and the Commission will take penal action against the PIO as per provisions of section 20 of the RTI Act.

To come up for further hearing on **03.08.2022** at 11.00 AM through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Fazilka.

Sd/Chandigarh (Khushwant Singh)
Dated: 09.03.2022 State Information Commission

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Sh. Prem Singh S/o Sh Jaspal Singh, VPO Amarpura, Tehsil Abohar, Diustt Fazilka.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer**,

O/o District Social Security Officer, Bathinda.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Director, Deptt. of Social Security and Women & Child Development, Pb 102-103, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 478 of 2021

PRESENT: None for the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The case first came up for hearing on **23.06.2021** through video conferencing at DAC Fazilka. As per the appellant, the PIO had not provided the information.

The respondent was absent. The PIO was directed to provide information to the appellant if exists in the record within 15 days and send a compliance report to the commission. Failure to comply with the order would attract penal action under section 20 of the RTI Act.

On the date of the last hearing on **26.10.2021**, the appellant informed that the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent was absent on 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive hearing. There has been an enormous delay or more than one year 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 an affidavit in this regard.** The PIO was again directed to provide information to the appellant within 10 days of the receipt of the order.

#### Hearing dated 09.03.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Fazilka/Bathinda. The appellant is absent and vide email has sought adjournment.

The respondent is also absent nor has filed a reply to the show-cause notice.

The PIO is given one last opportunity to reply to the show-cause notice and appear personally on the next date of hearing otherwise it will be presumed that the PIO has nothing to say on the matter and the Commission will take penal action against the PIO under the provisions of section 20 of the RTI Act.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **03.08.2022 at 11.00 AM** through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Fazilka. The PIO to appear through VC at DAC Bathinda.

Chandigarh Dated:09.03.2022

Sd/(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commissioner

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Sh Anil Mittal, S/o ShDharam Pal, # 22121, Gali No-11/4, Power House Road, Bathinda.

... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o EO, BDA,

Bathinda.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Addl, Chief Administrator, BDA, Bathinda.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 1943 of 2019

PRESENT: Sh.Anil Mittal as the Appellant

Sh.Ranjit Singh, Naib Tehsildar & Sh.Sukhvinder Singh Patwari for the

Respondent

**ORDER:** This order should be read in continuation to the previous order.

The case has already been heard on 17.10.2019, 23.12.2019, 17.03.2020, 07.09.2020, 09.03.2021, 15.06.2021, 22.09.2021 & 25.01.2022.

On the date of hearing on 17.10.2019, as per the appellant, the information on points 6,12 & 13 was related to Revenue Patwari, Patti Mehna. The revenue patwari was impleaded in the case and directed to provide the information.

On **07.09.2020**, Revenue Patwari, Patti Mehna was present and informed that the information concerning them has been supplied to the appellant. The appellant stated that he had received information on point-6 only and other information that had been provided by the PIO-BDA was also not legible. Having gone through the RTI application and hearing both the parties, the following was concluded:

Point-1,2,3&4	-	As per the appellant, the information is not legible. The PIO-BDA to provide a legible copy of the information.
Point-5	-	PIO to respond appropriately
Point-6	-	Copy of jamabandi to be provided by Patwari
Point-7	-	NA
Point-8	-	BDA to provide the information
Point-9	-	The appellant is not satisfied with the reply. The PIO to
		Provide complete information.
Point-10	-	PIO to provide a list of litigations
Point-11	-	Appellant not satisfied, PIO to provide complete
		information
Point-12	-	PIO to provide demarcation
Point-13	-	PIO to reply suitably
Point-14	-	To reply appropriately
	Point-5 Point-6 Point-7 Point-8 Point-9 Point-10 Point-11 Point-12 Point-13	Point-5 - Point-6 - Point-7 - Point-8 - Point-9 -  Point-10 - Point-11 -  Point-12 - Point-13 -

Since the information was voluminous, the PIO was directed to contact the appellant on his mobile No.9643122971 and sort out all the discrepancies and provide complete information within a week of the receipt of this order. Further, since there was an enormous delay in providing the information, a copy of the order was sent to the Chief Administrator, BDA Bathinda with the direction to ensure compliance of the order.

## **Appeal Case No. 1943 of 2019**

On the date of the hearing on **09.03.2021**, the respondent informed that the record was inspected by the appellant and the available information has been supplied to the appellant. The appellant was still not satisfied.

Hearing both the parties, the PIO was directed to sort out the discrepancies and provide whatever information is available point-wise to the appellant with a copy to the Commission. If the information is not available, give in writing on an affidavit that the information that has been provided is true, complete and no further information is available in the record relating to this RTI application.

On the date of hearing on **15.06.2021**, Sh.Amandeep Singh, Jr Assistant o/o BDA Bathinda and Sh.Gurjant Singh, Naib Tehsildar were present who informed that the information has already been provided. As per the appellant, the PIO had not provided complete information nor had provided an affidavit. As per the appellant, the information on points 1,2,3&4 was not legible nor attested, the information on point-5 was incomplete and information on the remaining points as per the previous order of the Commission had not been provided by the PIO.

The PIO was given one last opportunity to comply with the earlier order of the Commission and sort out the discrepancies and provide complete information on each point duly attested. If the information is not available, to either procure from the concerned authorities and provide to the appellant or give in writing on an affidavit that the information that has been provided is true, complete and no other information is available with this public authority under which RTI application was filed.

On the date of the hearing on **22.09.2021**, **the** appellant informed that the PIO has not supplied the information. The respondent was absent.

The case was marked to the Deputy Commissioner, Bathinda with the direction to ensure that the order of the Commission is complied with by the concerned PIOs and the information is provided to the appellant.

On the date of the last hearing on **25.01.2022**, Sh.Ranjit Singh, Naib Tehsildar appear on behalf of the PIO-DC-Bathinda and informed that the remaining information has been supplied to the appellant vide letter dated 29.11.2021 with a copy to the Commission and no further information is available.

The appellant informed that the information on points-5, 11 & 12 is still incomplete and information on points 8, 9,10, 13 & 14 have also not been provided by the PIO.

During the hearing on 22.09.2021, the case was marked to the Deputy Commissioner with the direction to ensure that the order of the Commission is complied with, and the information is provided to the appellant.

However, since the matter was unresolved and the order was not complied with by the PIO-DC Bathinda, it was reiterated that the case has been marked under section 5 (5) to Deputy Commissioner Bathinda. Section 5 (5) of the RTI Act states "Any officer, whose assistance has been sought under sub-section (4), shall render all assistance to the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, seeking his or assistance and for the purposes of any contravention of the provisions of this Act, such other officer shall be treated as the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be.

#### **Appeal Case No. 1943 of 2019**

DC Bathinda was again directed to reconcile all information that is yet to be provided, and if complete information has been provided that was sought, to file an affidavit that whatever information has been provided is true, complete and no further information is available in the record relating to all points of the RTI application. The affidavit should be on stamp paper duly signed by the PIO and attested by the competent authority.

## Hearing dated 09.03.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Bathinda. Sh.Ranjit Singh, Naib Tehsildar is present and informed that the available information has been provided and no further information is available in the record.

The appellant informed that the PIO has not supplied complete information and he has already pointed out the discrepancies to the PIO with a copy to the Commission. As per the appellant, the PIO has also not supplied the affidavit as per the order of the Commission dated 15.06.2021.

Hearing both the parties, the PIO is directed to sort out the matter regarding the map relating to point-5. Regarding the rest of the information, the PIO is directed to provide an affidavit mentioning therein that the information that has been provided to the appellant (regarding all points of the RTI application) is true, complete and no other information is available in the record relating to this RTI application.

To come up for further hearing on **03.08.2022 at 11.00 AM** through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Bathinda.

Chandigarh Dated 09.03.2022 Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner

CC to: 1. Revenue Patwari,
Patti Mehna, Distt.Bhatinda

2.PIO- Deputy Commissioner, Bathinda

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Sh. Bikramjit Singh, H NO-8, Phase-3, Swiss City, Gumtala Mahal, Bypass, Amritsar.

... Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o SGPC, Amritsar.

...Respondent

Complaint Case No. 221 of 2021

**PRESENT:** None for the Complainant

None for the Respondent

#### ORDER:

The complainant through RTI application dated 09.01.2021 has sought information regarding inspection of file related with letter emailed to Akal Takhat Sahib on 10.10.2020 and 02.01.2021 with letter No.792 and 1093 as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of SGPC Amritsar. The complainant was not provided with the information after which the complainant a complaint in the Commission on 17.02.2021.

The case first came up for hearing 07.07.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. The complainant informed that earlier the PIO vide letter dated 05.04.2021 had informed that the enquiry is pending and the information cannot be provided. Thereafter, the PIO vide letter dated 21.06.2021 informed that the enquiry has been completed, the report has been received and the decision has been taken but the PIO did not supply a copy of a final decision as per the RTI application.

The complainant further informed that he was allowed inspection only on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 but during the inspection, he was not allowed to note down any letter numbers nor provided photocopies of the required information.

The respondent was absent and vide email has sought exemption.

The Commission observed that the PIO has not attended to the RTI application within a period of 30 days, the time prescribed under the RTI Act. As per the record on the file, the RTI application was filed on 09.01.2021 but the reply was sent only on 05.04.2021. The PIO was issued a **show-cause notice under Section 20 of the RTI Act 2005 and directed to file a reply on an affidavit.** 

On the date of last hearing on **09.02.2022**, Shri Simarjit Singh-PIO appeared and informed that since the appellant's enquiry is pending with Shri Akal Takht, a letter was sent to the office of Shri Akal Takht Sahib on 15.01.2021 asking for the status of the enquiry and the reply was received on 23.03.2021. The reply was sent to the appellant vide letter dated 05.04.2021 stating therein that the enquiry was still pending.

The PIO also sent a reply to the show-cause notice through email which was taken on the file of the Commission.

# Complaint Case No. 221 of 2021

## Hearing dated 09.03.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today. Both the parties are absent.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **31.05.2022 at 11.00** at Chandigarh.

Chandigarh Dated:09.03.2022 Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner