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

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Sh Jiwan Lal, # 2156, Sunny Enclave, Kharar, Distt Mohali.

... Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Director, Ayurvedic Department, Sector-11, Chandigarh.

...Respondent

Complaint Case No. 869 of 2021

PRESENT: None for the Complainant

Hri Balwinderpal Sharma, Superintendent-cum-PIO and Shri Gurpreet

Singh, Junior Assistant, for the Respondent

ORDER:

The complainant, through an RTI application dated 27.04.2021 has sought information regarding the outstanding amount ,if any, against the complainant from State Medicinal Plant Board and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of Director Ayurvedic Department, Pb Chandigarh. The complainant was not provided with the information, after which the complainant filed a complaint in the Commission on 06.07.2021.

The case has come up for hearing today in the Commission's Office, Chandigarh. The complainant is absent nor represented.

The respondent pleaded that available information had been supplied to the complainant vide letters dated 18.08.2021 and 13.04.2022

Having gone through the RTI application and hearing the respondent, the Commission observes that after the year 2014, all the record of S.M.P.B is available with the Secretary, Forest Department, Punjab. It is further observed that neither the PIO has supplied the information to the complainant nor transferred his RTI application to the PIO office of the Secretary, Forest Department, Punjab.

Therefore, a show cause notice under section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005, is issued to PIO O/o Director Ayurvedic Department, Punjab, Chandigarh as to why penalty be not imposed upon him/her for willful delay and denial in providing the information to the complainant. He is directed to file his /her reply to the show cause notice in writing before the next date of hearing. In addition to his submission, the PIO is also hereby given an opportunity under section 20(1) proviso thereto for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. The PIO may note that in case the PIO does not file his/her submission and does not avail of the opportunity of the personal hearing on the next date fixed, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say, and the Commission shall proceed ex-parte.

To come up for further hearing on **12.09.2022** at 11.00 AM in the Commission's Office, Chandigarh.

Chandigarh

Dated: 12.07.2022

Copy by registered post to:

Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commission

Public Information Officer, O/o Director of Ayurvedic, Punjab, Sector 11, Chandigarh

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Sh Ranjeet Kumar, S/o Sh Rajender Kumar, R/o Old Sabzi Mandi, Ekta Chowk, 1st Floor, Grover Lifafa, Sirsa, Distt Haryana.

... Appellant

Public Information Officer, O/o Food Safety Officer, O/o Civil Surgeon, Sri Mukatsar Sahib.

First Appellate Authority, Food Safety Commissioner, Kharar, Distt Mohali.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 3200 of 2021

Shri Ranjeet Kumar, Appellant PRESENT:

None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 07.01.2021 has sought information on 09 points regarding a copy of the notice sent to Ved Parkash - copy of the application of Ved Parkash requesting for getting the sample tested from private labs – a copy of test report of the sample by Gaziabad lab - a copy of sample report of Chandigarh and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of Food Safety Officer O/o Civil Surgeon, Sri Mukatsar Sahib. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 24.03.2,021 which, did not decide on on the appeal.

Versus

The case has come up for hearing today in Commission's office at Chandigarh. As per the appellant, the PIO has not supplied the information. The appellant furthers stated that he had also sent reminder 05.04.2021 to Food Safety Officer Sri Muktsar Sahib.

The PIO is absent nor represented. However, a copy of the letter dated 11.07.2022 has been received from the office of the Commissioner Food and Drugs Administration, Punjab, Kharar, stating therein that Civil Surgeon, Sri Muktsar Sahib, has provided information by hand to the appellant on 10.01.2022.

Having gone through the RTI application, prima-facie, it is evident that information has not been supplied, and the letter of the respondent stating that information has been supplied by hand to the appellant appears to be incorrect. Therefore, a show cause notice under section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005, is issued to PIO O/o Civil Surgeon, Sri Muktsar Sahib as to why penalty be not imposed upon him/her for willful delay and denial in providing the information to the appellant. He is directed to file his /her reply to the show cause notice in writing before the next date of hearing. In addition to his submission, the PIO is also hereby given an opportunity under section 20(1) proviso thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. The PIO may note that in case the PIO does not file his/her submission and does not avail of the opportunity of the personal hearing on the next date fixed, it will be presumed that the PIO has nothing to say, and the Commission shall proceed ex-parte.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on 23.11.2022 at 11.00 AM through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Sri Muktsar Sahib.

Chandigarh Dated: 12.07.2022

Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) **State Information Commission**