PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Versus



Sh. Jaswant Sarpal (94654-77771)

S/o Sh. Darbari Lal Sarpal #2220/2, Gali Arian I/s Mahan Singh Gate,Amritsar

Appellant

Public Information

Officer/APIO

O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar

First Appellate Authority

O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar

Sh. Parminderjit Singh (PIO-Cum-ATP),

O/o MTP, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 2203, 2204 of 2018

Present: None for the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER

The Above mentioned case was heard by the bench of Ld. SIC, Dr. Pawan Kumar Singla on 22.07.2019 and since the appellant was not satisfied with the proceedings of this bench, this case file was sent to the Deputy Registrar to place it before the Hon'ble Chief Information Commissioner to constitute a Division/Larger Bench to hear and decided this case.

The Hon'ble Chief Information Commissioner, Sh. Suresh Arora Vide Office Order dated 02.08.2019 re-allocated the above mentioned case to the bench of Ld. SIC, Dr. Pawan Kumar Singla and Ld. SIC, Sh. Avtar Singh Kaler. Accordingly the case was fixed for hearing on 30.10.2019.

The appellant, Sh. Jaswant Sarpal orally stated that he does not want to pursue his cases before this bench. Neither the respondent PIO was present for hearing nor did he file reply in this regard.

After examining both the case files(AC:2203, 2204 of 2018), it was observed that Show Cause Notice was issued in both the cases by the bench of Ld. SIC, Dr. Pawan Kumar Singla Vide Order Dated 19.11.2018 and compensation amount of Rs. 3,000/- in total (Rs. 1,500/- in each case) was awarded to the appellant Vide Order Dated 04.12.2018 and on the next date of hearing on 09.01.2019, penalty amount of 20,000/- in total (Rs. 10,000/- in each case) was imposed on the concerned respondent PIO. On the next date of hearing dated 13.02.2019, a Bailable Warrant was issued in both cases against Sh. Sanjeev Devgan (ATP, MC, Amritsar) and matter was adjourned for further hearing on 25.03.2019.

On the hearing of 25.03.2019, Sh. Sanjeev Devgan stated that he has just joined this office and Sh. Parminderjit Singh was the earlier PIO. A copy of the order was sent to Sh. Parminderjit Singh through registered post to appear in person on the next date of hearing. Sh. Sanjeev Devgan also added that AC: 2204 of 2018 not concerned with his office and requested to exempt him in this case. He added that requisite information has already been supplied to the appellant in other cases (AC: 2067, 2101 of 2017), which were decided and closed by the bench of Ld. SIC, Sh. Nidharak Singh Brar but appellant denied and mentioned that requisite information is different in the present cases and other cases decided by the bench of Ld. SIC, Sh. Nidharak Singh Brar. Matter was adjourned for further hearing on 27.05.2019.

On the hearing of 27.05.2019, Sh. Parminderjit Singh was absent and a Bailable Warrant was issued to him by name in AC: 2203 of 2018 and last opportunity was given to him in AC: 2204 of 2018. Matter was adjourned for further hearing on 22.07.2019.

On 22.07.2019, respondent, Sh. Parminderjit Singh stated that Ms. Krishna Kumari (ATP-Cum-PIO) was the incharge and he requested for the relevant record from the Ms. Krishna Kumari but no record was handed over by her. He added that as per the office reports and orders passed by the Ld. SIC, Sh. Nirdharak Singh Brar in appeal case no. 2067 of 2017, it was clear that record was lying pending with Ms. Krishna Kumari ATP but she denied that record is not with her. He submits a reply signed by him as PIO-Cum-ATP dated nil along with supporting documents, which were taken on record. The appellant, Sh. Jaswant Sarpal stated that Sh. Parminderjit Singh is not the concerned PIO.

After hearing both the parties and examining the case file, it was observed that appellant, Sh. Jaswant Sarpal is not satisfied with the proceedings of the Bench of Ld.SIC Dr.Pawan Kumar Singla . Therefore, this case file was sent to the Deputy Registrar to place it before the Hon"ble Chief Information Commissioner to constitute a Division/Larger Bench to hear and decide this case. Accordingly the case was fixed for hearing before the Division Bench of Dr.Pawan Kumar Singla and Sh.Avtar Singh Kaler on 30.10.2019.

On the date of hearing on 30.10.2019, as the appellant sent an email dated 25.10.2019 in connection with Appeal Case Numbers 2203 and 2204 of 2018, mentioning therein that his cases are being disposed without supply of demanded documents and in the interest of Justice the matter should have been placed before the Hon'ble CIC and some other SIC"s.

In view of the email of the appellant (dated 25.10.2019) and the wording written by the appellant in that email, in relation to the Commission/Commissioners, it was clarified by the bench:

"that the Commission is a constitutional body. It is disgraceful to write without a solid basis/document. Appellant has made some un-charitable comments against the bench alleging it to be vindictive and inimical while deciding other appeals this bench had made very candid and express observations asserting that this bench is bound by an oath of allegiance to the Constitution of India to discharge its duties without fear or favor. The Commission is duty bound morally and ethically to take decisions without bias or ill- will against anyone.

The Commission considers it appropriate to underline here that no litigant should be allowed to browbeat or arm-twist an adjudicating body to seek a decision in his favor or to choose one of his choice. It is a matter of routine for this litigant to ask for the change of a bench the moment he senses an adverse decision.

Commission has taken serious notice for such false allegations against Commission/Commissioners, Sh. Nidharak Singh Brar, Dr. Pawan Kumar Singla, Sh. Avtar Singh Kaler and Sh. Sanjiv Garg, which is unbearable and the appellant has defamed the Commission by doing so.

It is also observed that the appellant is habitually filing harassing and vexatious complaints to the Commission, due to it working of the Commission suffers. So the appellant is strictly advised/prohibited to use such un-charitable, filthy and unbearable language for the Commission as well as for the Commissioners in future."

In view of the above, <u>this case file was sent to the Deputy Registrar to place it</u> <u>before the Hon'ble Chief Information Commissioner to allocate this case as well as other cases of the appellant to some other bench. Accordingly, the case was re-allocated to this bench vide order of the Hon'ble CIC dated 20.11.2019.</u>

The case has come up for hearing before this bench today. Both the parties are absent. The case is adjourned.

To come up for further hearing on 22.04.2020 at 01.00 PM.

Sd/(Asit Jolly)
State Information Commissioner

Sd/(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh Dated 14.01.2020