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Shri Rohit Sabharwal Kundan Bhawan. #126. Model Gram. Ludhiana.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Municipal Corporation Zone-A, Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority

O/o The Commissioner. Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

....Respondents

AC No.4189 of 2019

Present:

- (i) Appellant - absent
- Shri Kulpreet Singh, Joint Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana & (ii) Shri Ajay Kumar, Building Inspector, O/o Municipal Corporation Zone-A, Ludhiana, on behalf of the PIO.

ORDER:

Heard through video Conferencing

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 05.08.2020 passed by the Bench on the previous hearing.
- 2. The appellant is absent. Ms. Sukhjinder Kaur, Advocate who attends the hearings on behalf of the appellant has, however, sent an e.mail stating that due to some unavoidable medical circumstances, she would not be able to attend the hearing today.
- Shri Kulpreet Singh, Joint Commissioner, M.C. Ludhiana/First Appellate Authority and Shri 3. Ajay Kumar, Building Inspector come present to attend the hearing through V.C. Shri Ajay Kumar, representative of PIO states that the information has already been supplied vide letter dated 02.03.2020.
- 4. The Bench observes that it is the sixth consecutive hearing in this case. The reply to show cause notice has not been filed. On the asking of the Bench regarding confirmation on deposition of penalty imposed on the PIO in the Government Treasury, Shri Kulpreet Singh, First Appellate Authority and the representative of the PIO, Sh.Ajay Kumar state that penalty imposed on the PIO is yet to be deposited, however, a direction has been given to the Drawing & Disbursing Officer of Municipal Corporation to deduct the penalty amount of Rs.10,000/- from the salary of PIO and deposit the same with the State Treasury.
- After deliberations in the case with the First Appellate Authority, Sh.Kulpreet Singh and Shri Ajay Kumar, as also with the representative of the appellant, the Bench directs the PIO to send confirmation to the Bench regarding the deposition of penalty amount as also to file reply to the show cause notice issued earlier. Cont..P-2

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-2- <u>AC No.4189/2019</u>

- 6. The PIO is further directed to file an affidavit, before the next hearing, duly signed by the PIO and attested by the Notary Public to the effect that the information as existing in the official records in AC No.4189/2019, has been supplied to the appellant. Nothing has been concealed therein. The statement made is correct and authentic. Original copy of affidavit be sent to the appellant and photocopy of the same be sent to the Commission for record.
- 7. With the above directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on **09.11.2020 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in the office of D.C. Ludhiana.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Chandigarh 14.09.2020 Sd/-(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma,(Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Shri Rohit Sabharwal Kundan Bhawan, #126, Model Gram, Ludhiana.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer O/o Municipal Corporation Zone-A, Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority

O/o The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

....Respondents

AC No.984 of 2020

Present: (i) Appellant- absent

(ii) Shri Ajay Kumar, Building Inspector, M.C. Ludhiana, on behalf of the PIO.

ORDER:

Heard through video Conferencing

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 05.08.2020 passed by the Bench on the previous hearing.
- 2. The appellant is absent. Ms. Sukhjinder Kaur, Advocate who attends the hearings on behalf of the appellant has, however, sent an e.mail stating that due to some unavoidable medical circumstances, she would not be able to attend the hearing today.
- 3. Shri Ajay Kumar, Building Inspector, M.C. Ludhiana comes present to attend the hearing through V.C. He states that reply to the appellant has been given vide letter dated 19.06.2020 stating therein that the information cannot be supplied in the manner the appellant has sought and thereafter, an intimation has been sent to the Commission vide letter dated 03.09.2020. He further states that reply to the show cause notice has been sent vide registered post.
- 4. Post deliberations in this case with the representative of PIO and the representative of the appellant by contacting her on mobile phone, the Bench directs the PIO to call the appellant to his office on any working day to inspect the official records and to identify the information. The PIO is directed to provide the information so identified by the appellant.
- 5. The PIO, Municipal Corporation Zone-A, Ludhiana is also directed to file affidavit duly signed by the PIO and attested by the Notary Public, to the effect that the information as existing in the official records in AC No.984 of 2020, has been supplied to the appellant. Nothing has been concealed therein. The statement made is correct and authentic. Original copy of the affidavit be sent to the appellant and photocopy of the same be sent to the Commission for record. This should be done before the next hearing.

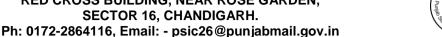


-2- <u>AC No.984/2020</u>

6. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 09.11.2020 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in the office of D.C. Ludhiana. Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Sd/-

Chandigarh 14.09.2020 (Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma(Retd.)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab



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Shri Sarabjeet Singh Gill, H.No.60-35-P-375-1, Street No.8, Maha Singh Nagar, PO Dhandari Kalan, Ludhiana, Distt.Ludhiana.

.....Appellant

Public Information Officer

O/o The Commissioner. Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority

O/o The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

....Respondents

AC No.1012 of 2020

Versus

Present: (i) Appellant- absent.

> (ii) None on behalf of the PIO.

ORDER:

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 05.08.2020 passed by this Bench on the previous date of hearing.
- 2. Shri Sarabjeet Singh Gill, appellant is absent. Shri Amarjit Singh Dhamotia, father of the appellant, who used to attend hearings on his behalf, is contacted on mobile phone. On enquiring about the absence of appellant, he states that he was not aware of the hearing and further states that no information has been received as yet.
- 3. Neither the PIO has come present to attend the hearing nor he has sent any other official to attend the hearing on his behalf.
- 4. The Bench observes that no compliance to the directions given by the Bench on the previous hearing has been reported nor the reply to the show cause notice has been filed.
- 5. The PIO, Tehbazari Branch, M.C. Ludhiana is directed to supply complete information to the appellant before the next date of hearing and to file the affidavit as directed on the previous hearing.
- 6. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 09.11.2020 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in the office of D.C. Ludhiana. Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Sd/-

Chandigarh 14.09.2020

(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma(Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,

SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.





Shri Sarabjeet Singh Gill, H.No.60-35-P-376-1. Street No.8. Maha Singh Nagar, PO Dhandari Kalan,

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

Ludhiana, Distt.Ludhiana.

O/o The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

Public Information Officer

O/o The Commissioner. Tehbazari Branch, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

Public Information Officer

O/o The Medical Officer of Health, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority

O/o The Commissioner. Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

....Respondents

AC No.1013 of 2020

Present:

- (i) Appellant- absent.
- (ii) Shri Satish Kumar, PIO. Municipal Corporation, Zone-C, Ludhiana.

ORDER:

(Heard through Video Conferencing)

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 05.08.2020 passed by this Bench on the previous date of hearing.
- 2. Shri Sarabjeet Singh Gill, appellant is absent. Shri Amarjit Singh Dhamotia, father of the appellant, who used to attend hearings on his behalf, is contacted on mobile phone. On enquiring about the absence of appellant, he states that he was not aware of the hearing and further states no information has been received as yet.
- 3. Shri Satish Kumar, PIO, Zone-C, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana comes present to attend the hearing through V.C. He states that the information on Point No.4 relating to Zone-C has been sent to the appellant vide letter dated 13.08.2020. As regards information on Points No.1,2,3, 5 & 6, these are related to Tehbazari Branch and Medical Officer of Health Department who are to give information on these points. The concerned Branches have also been informed by the Superintendent, RTI Cell.



-2- <u>AC No.1013/2020</u>

- 4. Post deliberations, Shri Sanjiv Uppal, Superintendent/PIO, Tehbazari Branch and Mrs. Jasbir Kaur, PIO O/o Medical Officer of Health Department, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana are impleaded as respondents. They are directed to supply information to the appellant on the points relating to their Branches and also attend the next hearing.
- 5. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 09.11.2020 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in the office of D.C. Ludhiana. Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 14.09.2020 Sd/(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma(Retd))
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy (By Regd. Post) to:

- (i) Shri Sanjiv Uppal, Superintendent/PIO, Tehbazari Branch, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.
- (ii) Mrs. Jasbir Kaur, PIO O/o Medical Officer of Health, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana

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Shri Amandeep Singh S/o Shri Surinder Singh R/o No.610, Sector-39, Urban Estate,Chandigarh Road, Jamalpur, Ludhiana.

.....Appellant

Public Information Officer

O/o The Zonal Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority-cum-

Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

....Respondents

AC No.1935 of 2020

Versus

Present: (i) Shri Gurpreet Singh, Advocate on behalf of Amandeep Singh, appellant

(ii) Shri Satish Kumar, PIO, Municipal Corporation Zone-C, Ludhiana.

ORDER:

(Heard through Video Conferencing)

- 1. The RTI application is dated 15.07.2019 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) on 06.09.2019 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 21.07.2020 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).
- 2. Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 14.09.2020 by the Commission through Video Conferencing facility in the office of D.C. Ludhiana.
- 3. Shri Gurpreet Singh, Advocate comes present to attend the hearing through V.C. on behalf of the appellant He states that the appellant has sought information on his complaint made on 09.07.2019 regarding an unauthorized colony being carved out in jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana on the land comprising Khasra Nos. mentioned therein, but no information has been provided yet.
- 4. Shri Satish Kumar, PIO, Zone –C, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana comes present to attend the hearing. He states that the RTI application of the appellant is not available with them and requests for a copy of the same from the appellant.
- 5. The Bench is surprised at the statement of PIO. The Bench observes that this reflects poorly on handling of RTI cases by the Department and advises the representative of appellant to hand over a copy of the same to the PIO during the hearing.

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-2- <u>AC No.1935/2020</u>

6. Post deliberations on the case, the Bench directs the PIO to call the appellant to his office on any working day before next hearing. The PIO will allow the appellant to access the relevant official records to enable him to identify the information as required by him. The PIO is directed to provide the information so identified by the appellant.

7. The Bench further directs the PIO to file an affidavit duly signed by the PIO and attested by the Notary Public to the effect that the information as available in the official records in AC No.1935 of 2020 has been supplied to the appellant. Nothing has been concealed therein. The Statement made is correct and authentic. Original copy of the affidavit be sent to the appellant and photocopy of the same be sent to the Commission for record.

8. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 09.11.2020 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in DC. Office, Ludhiana. Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 14.09.2020 Sd/(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma(Retd)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Shri Devi Dayal S/o Late Sh.Hari Ram Sharma, Village Harna, PO Buras Tehsil & Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o The District Commander, Punjab Home Guards, Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority

O/o The Deputy Commandant General, P.H.G., Sector-17, Chandigarh..

....Respondents

AC No.1963 of 2020

Present: (i) Shri Devi Dayal, Appellant

(ii) Shri Rupinder Singh, Civil Defence Instructor, O/o District Commander,

Punjab Home Guards, Ludhiana, on behalf of the PIO.

ORDER:

(Heard through Video Conferencing)

- 1. The RTI application is dated 15.11.2020 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) on 13.05.2020 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 24.07.2020 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).
- 2. Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 14.09.2020 by the Commission through Video Conferencing facility in the office of D.C. Fatehgarh Sahib.
- 3. Shri Devi Dayal, appellant comes present to attend the hearing through V.C. He states that he has sought information about one Shri Sarabjit Singh, Company Commander, Home Guards (Part-time), Ludhiana which has not been provided to him.
- 4. Shri Rupinder Singh, Civil Defence Instructor, Punjab Home Guards, Ludhiana comes present to attend the hearing on behalf of the PIO. He states that the appellant has been given reply vide letter dated 05.05.2020 that Shri Sarabjit Singh, Company Commander, Punjab Home Guards, Ludhiana in respect of whom the information has been sought by the appellant, has not given his consent to share the information. As such, being a third party information, the same cannot be given to the appellant under the provisions of Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act.

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-2- AC No.1963/2020

5. After hearing the appellant, the Bench observes that there are certain lacunae in the functioning of Punjab Home Guards. It appears that the part-time Company Commander is drawing salary even without attending routine work. Although it is pesonal & third party information that has been sought by the appellant, but in the instant appeal case, the Bench overrules the PIO and directs that information be provided in the larger interest of transparency and accountability. It appears from the submissions made by the apepllant that certain people may be drawing salary even without attending work. Larger public interest is, thus, involved to expose this malpractice.

- 6. In view of the observations made above, the Bench directs the PIO to make available the information sought by the appellant before the next date of hearing.
- 7. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 09.11.2020 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in D.C. Office, Ludhiana. Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 14.09.2020 Sd/-(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma(Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Shri Mohinder Singh S/o Shri Gurjit Singh, R/o Village Chak Dumaal @ Tindawala, Tehsil Jalalabad, District Fazillka.

.....Appellant

Public Information Officer

O/o SDM –cum-Registration Authority, Motor Vehicle, Abohar, Distt. Fazilka.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Regional Transport Authority, Ferozepur.

....Respondents

AC No.2137 of 2020

Versus

Present: (i) Shri Mohinder Singh, appellant.

(ii) None on behalf of the PIO.

ORDER:

(Heard Through Video Conferencing)

- 1. The RTI application is dated 10.02.2020 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) on 29.05.2020 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 11.08.2020 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).
- 2. Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 14.09.2020 by the Commission through Video Conferencing facility in the office of D.C.Fazilka.
- 3. Shri Mohinder Singh, appellant comes present to attend the hearing through V.C. He states that no information has been supplied to him as yet.
- 4. Neither the PIO has come present nor any official has been deputed to attend the hearing through V.C. on his behalf. However, a letter dated 11.06.2020 has been received vide which the appellant has been given reply to his RTI application stating that there is no entry in their records relating to transfer of Registration No.PB03C-5409. However, appellant may indicate correct number in case this is not the correct Registration No.
- 5. On perusing the reply, the Bench directs to the PIO to call the appellant to his office on any working day. PIO will allow the appellant access to the relevant official records. The appellant will identify the information he needs. The PIO is directed to provide the information so identified by the appellant.



-2- <u>AC No.2137/2020</u>

6. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 09.11.2020 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in D.C. Office, Ludhiana. Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 14.09.2020 Sd/-(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma(Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab



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Shri Shakti Bhushan S/o Shri Kewal Krishan Kaushal, R/o Street Bhaini Sahib, Ward No.8, Danola, District Barnala.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Addl. Transport Commissioner, Punjab, Sector-17, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority

O/o State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh.

....Respondents

AC No.2145 of 2020

Present: (i) Appellant- absent.

(ii) None on behalf of the PIO.

ORDER:

- 1. The RTI application is dated 10.10.2019 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) on 25.11.2019 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 11.08.2020 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).
- 2. Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 14.09.2020 by the Commission through Video Conferencing facility in the office of D.C. Barnala.
- 3. Efforts were made to connect through Video Conferencing. However, due to technical glitch, connectivity through V.C. could not be made and as such, hearing through V.C. could not be held.
- 4. Repeated attempts were made to contact the appellant through mobile phone, but he did not respond.
- 5. The matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 09.11.2020 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in D.C. Office, Barnala. Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Sd/-

Chandigarh 14.09.2020

(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma(Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab