



Sh.Manmohan Singh,
H No-1047, Sector-44-B,
Chandigarh.

... Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Director Local Govt Deptt,
Punjab, Chandigarh.

...Respondent

Complaint Case No. 141 of 2020

PRESENT: None for the Appellant
Sh.Satwinder Singh, Suptd.-PIO Local Govt (Branch-3) for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant through RTI application dated 01.04.2019 has sought information regarding rules/instructions for transfer of property from one person to another in property record of MC and other information concerning the office of Director Local Govt Department, Punjab, Chandigarh. The PIO-cum-Superintendent O/o Local Govt. Department (Branch-3) transferred the RTI application under section 6(3) to STP, Local Govt on 24.04.2019 which transferred it back to the Local Govt. Department on 01.05.2019 stating that that the complainant has sought copy of rules for transfer of property in the MC record. The PIO-cum-Suptd. Local Govt Department (Branch-3) again transferred the RTI application to the Director Local Govt. Department on 15.05.2019 asking it to provide the information to the complainant directly.

Thereafter, the PIO-cum-Suptd. O/o Director Local Govt.(Personnel Branch) sent reply to the complainant vide letter dated 12.07.2019 stating that the information is not available in their record. On being not satisfied with the reply of the PIO, the complainant filed complaint in the Commission.

The case first came up for hearing on 02.07.2020. Both the parties were absent. Having gone through the file, the Commission observed that the RTI application is moving from one desk to another. The Director, Local Government Department, Punjab was directed to look at the RTI application and transfer it to the appropriate authority/PIO under whose custody the information exists and provide the information as per the RTI Act.

On the date of hearing on **17.08.2020**, the respondent present from the office of Local Govt. Department(Branch-3) pleaded that the information concerning them regarding point-1 has been provided to the appellant and since the information regarding points-2 & 3 relates STP, the PIO-STP has also supplied the information regarding point-2 to the appellant. The appellant was not satisfied with the information regarding point-2.

Hearing both the parties, the PIO-Local Govt. Department (Branch-3) was directed to procure the information from the concerned department and provide complete information to the appellant within 15 days.

The Commission observed that there has been an enormous delay of one year and four months in providing the information. The PIO was issued a **show cause notice under section 20 of the RTI Act and directed to file reply on an affidavit.**

The Commission also observed that the appellant had to suffer undue inconvenience to get the information, the PIO was directed to pay an amount of **Rs.3000/-** via demand draft drawn through Govt. Treasury as compensation to the appellant for the loss and detriment suffered by him of having to file the appeals and not getting information in time. The PIO is directed to duly inform the Commission of the compliance of the order and submit proof of having compensated the appellant.

Hearing dated 14.09.2020:

The respondent present pleaded that in compliance with the order of the Commission, the remaining information and compensation amount of Rs.3000/- (vide cheque No.560562 dated 20.08.2020 drawn on Indusind Bank) has been paid to the complainant on 24.08.2020 and the complainant has acknowledged having received the cheque and complete information. The respondent has also submitted copy of acknowledgement of the complainant which is taken on the file of the Commission.

The respondent has also submitted reply to the show cause notice which has been taken on the file of the Commission.

Having gone through the reply of the PIO, the Commission finds that there is no malafide on the part of the PIO in attending to the RTI application and the remaining information as well as compensation has been provided to the complainant on 24.08.2020, the show cause is dropped.

No further course of action is required. The case is **disposed off and closed.**

Chandigarh
Dated 14.09.2020

Sd/-
(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commissioner