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Bench: Sh. Sanjiv Garg, State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Ravinder Singh, C/o Office No. 23, New Lawyer's Chamber, BLOCK- A, District Courts - Faridkot - 151203(Punjab)

....Appellant

(Regd. Post)

Public Information Officer,

O/o The Secretary,

Regional Transport Authority,

Faridkot (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority, O/o The Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot (Punjab).

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 1080 of 2019

Present: None on behalf of the appellant.

None on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

Heard through Video Conference vide NIC facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Faridkot.

This case was earlier fixed for hearing for 03.02.2020 and adjourned for 30.03.2020 (was postponed) and fixed for hearing for today i. e. 17.08.2020. On the last hearing, held on 03.02.2020, neither the respondent nor any of his representative was present and he had also not sent any intimation regarding his non-availability as he was directed to appear in person before the Commission vide order dated 09.12.2019. He had also not sent any document, showing that certified copies of the required information were supplied to the appellant and he had also not intimated the Commission that whether he had deposited the penalty amount of Rs. 5000/- which was imposed upon him vide order dated 09.12.2019. The Commission took a serious view of this casual approach of the respondent PIO and after seeing the conduct of the concerned respondent PIO, disciplinary action was recommended under Section 20 (2) of the RTI Act against him for willful delay/denial in supplying the information to the RTI applicant and for not complying the order passed by the Commission vide orders dated 09.12.2019. The respondent PIO concerned was also directed to appear in person before the Commission to represent this case.

In today's hearing, the respondent PIO is again absent without any intimation to the Commission even after the directions were given by the Commission vide orders dated 03.02.2020. He has also not sent any intimation regarding his non-availability. Neither he has not sent any document, which shows that certified copies of the required information has been supplied to the appellant nor he has intimated the Commission that whether he has deposited the penalty amount of Rs. 5000/- which was imposed upon him vide order dated 09.12.2019.

Taking a serious view of this casual approach of the respondent PIO and after seeing the conduct of the concerned respondent PIO, a copy of this order be sent to State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh through registered post to ensure compliance of the order dated 19.12.2019 passed by the Commission regarding penalty, which was imposed upon the concerned Public Information Officer of office of Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot and to supply the certified copies of the required information to the appellant. He is also directed to ensure the compliance of the order dated 03.02.2020 regarding disciplinary action, which was recommended by the Commission under Section 20 (2) of the RTI Act against the concerned Public Information Officer for willful delay/denial in supplying the information to the RTI applicant and for not complying the order passed by the Commission vide orders dated 09.12.2019 and 03.02.2020, by the next date of hearing under intimation to the Commission.

The respondent PIO concerned is also directed to appear in person before the Commission to represent this case on the next date of hearing <u>fixed through facility of Software/application 'CISCO Webex Meetings'</u>. A copy of this order be sent to him through <u>registered post</u>.

An opportunity is also given to the appellant to represent this case in person or through any of his representative on the next date of hearing <u>fixed through facility of Software/application 'CISCO Webex Meetings'</u>.

The case is <u>adjourned to 14th October, 2020 (Wednesday) at 11:00 A. M. for</u> <u>hearing through facility of Software/application 'CISCO Webex Meetings'.</u>

Copies of the orders be sent to the parties.

Date:17th August, 2020

(Sanjiv Garg)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab



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Bench: Sh. Sanjiv Garg, State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Harish Chand, Goyal Ayurvedic Store, Chaina Bazaar, Jaito, Distt. – Faridkot (Punjab)

...Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,

(Regd. Post) O/o The Secretary,

Regional Transport Authority,

Faridkot(Punjab)

First Appellate Authority, O/o The Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot(Punjab)

... Respondents

Appeal Case No. 3088 of 2019

Present: Sh. Harish Chand, the appellant in person.

None on behalf of the respondent.

ORDER

Heard through Video Conference vide NIC facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Faridkot.

This case was earlier fixed for hearing for 22.01.2020 and adjourned for 23.03.2020 (was postponed) and fixed for hearing for today i. e. 17.08.2020. On that hearing, held on 22.01.2020, last and final opportunity was given to the concerned respondent PIO to appear in person before the Commission with the directions to supply the certified copies of the required information to the appellant and if the required information is supplied, then submit a copy of the postal receipt, through which information was sent to the appellant and last opportunity was given to the respondent-PIO concerned to supply the certified copies of the required information to the appellant through registered post.

The appellant, Sh. Harish Chand, who appeared in person in today's hearing, states that no information has been supplied to him by the respondent PIO.

Neither the respondent PIO nor any of his representative is present in today's hearing even after the directions were given by the Commission vide orders dated 22.01.2020. He has also not sent any intimation regarding his non-availability. Neither he has sent any document, which shows that certified copies of the required information has been supplied to the appellant nor he has sent any reply to the show cause notice, issued to him under Section 20 (1) of the RTI Act vide orders dated 28.11.2019 by the Commission.

Appeal Case No. 3088 of 2019

-2-

Nevertheless, last and final opportunity is given to the concerned respondent PIO to appear in person before the Commission on the next date of hearing positively, fixed through facility of Software/application 'CISCO Webex Meetings' with the directions to supply the certified copies of the required information to the appellant and if the required information has already been supplied, then submit a copy of the postal receipt and copy of information, through which information has been sent to the appellant, in the Commission by the next date of hearing, failing which action would be initiated against him under the provisions of the RTI Act. A copy of this order be sent to him through registered post.

An opportunity is also given to the appellant to confirm whether he has received the information (which would be supplied by respondent PIO) or not.

The case is <u>adjourned to 14th October, 2020 (Wednesday)</u> at 11:00 A. M. for <u>hearing through facility of Software/application 'CISCO Webex Meetings'.</u>

Copies of the orders be sent to the parties.

Date:17th August, 2020

(Sanjiv Garg)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab



Email: psicsic31@punjabmail.gov.in Visit us - www.infocommpunjab.com
Bench: Sh. Sanjiv Garg, State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Harish Chand, Goyal Ayurvedic Store, Chaina Bazaar, Jaito, Distt. – Faridkot (Punjab)

...Appellant

V/s.

Public Information Officer,

(Regd. Post) O/o The Secretary,

Regional Transport Authority,

Faridkot(Punjab)

Encl : letter dated 11.03.20 of the appellant

First Appellate Authority, O/o The Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot(Punjab)

... Respondents

Appeal Case No. 3089 of 2019

Present: Sh. Harish Chand, the appellant in person.

None on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

Heard through Video Conference vide NIC facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Faridkot.

This case was earlier fixed for hearing for 22.01.2020 and adjourned for 23.03.2020 (was postponed) and fixed for hearing for today i. e. 17.08.2020. On that hearing, held on 22.01.2020, the appellant was advised to point out deficiencies, if any, in the reply given to him vide letter no. Spl. 25 dated 25.11.2019, in writing, to the respondent PIO so that the same could be removed by the respondent concerned. An opportunity was given to the concerned official, who is dealing with the RTI cases, to appear in person before the Commission positively.

The appellant, Sh. Harish Chand, who appeared in person in today's hearing, states that he has pointed out certain deficiencies, in the information supplied to him by the respondent PIO through a letter dated 11.03.2020 and a copy of the same has been sent to the Commission (which has been received in the Commission vide Diary No. 4871 dated 13.03.2020. It is placed in the case-file).

Neither the respondent PIO nor any of his representative is present in today's hearing even after the directions were given by the Commission vide orders dated 22.01.2020. Neither he has sent any intimation regarding his non-availability nor he has sent any document, showing that deficiencies, which were pointed out by the appellant through a letter dated 11.03.2020, has been removed.

Appeal Case No. 3089 of 2019

-2-

Nevertheless, last and final opportunity is given to the concerned respondent PIO to appear in person before the Commission on the next date of hearing positively, fixed through facility of Software/application 'CISCO Webex Meetings' with the directions to supply the information, after removing the deficiencies, which were pointed out by the appellant through a letter dated 11.03.2020, to him by registered post by the next date of hearing with a copy to the Commission. A copy of this order be sent to him through registered post alongwith the letter dated 11.03.2020 of the appellant through which he has pointed out certain deficiencies for ready reference.

An opportunity is also given to the appellant to confirm whether he has received the information (which would be supplied by respondent PIO) or not.

The case is <u>adjourned to 14th October, 2020 (Wednesday) at 11:00 A. M. for</u> <u>hearing through facility of Software/application 'CISCO Webex Meetings'.</u>

Copies of the orders be sent to the parties.

Date: 17th August, 2020

(Sanjiv Garg)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Encl : letter dated 11.03.2020 of the appellant



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Bench: Sh. Sanjiv Garg, State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Jasbir Singh,
Village – Bholapur Jhabewal,
Jasbir Singh,
P. O. – Ramgarh,
Distt. – Ludhiana - 123455 (Punjab)

...Appellant

Public Information Officer-cum-

Assistant Transport Officer,

(Regd. Post) O/o The Secretary,

Regional Transport Authority,

Faridkot (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority, O/o The State Transport Commissioner, Pb. Sector 17, Chandigarh

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 3009 of 2019

Present: None on behalf of the appellant.

None on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

Heard through Video Conference vide NIC facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Faridkot.

V/s

This case was last heard on 03.07.2020 and the respondent PIO concerned was directed to facilitate the appellant to inspect the relevant official record on 16.07.2020 at 11:00 A. M. to identify the required information and the respondent-PIO concerned was directed to supply the required information, which would be identified by the appellant after inspection, to him. An opportunity was also given to the appellant to confirm whether he has received the information or not and also to point out deficiencies, if any, in the information supplied to him, in writing, to the respondent PIO well in time so that the same could be removed by the respondent concerned. Last and final opportunity was also given to the respondent PIO concerned to comply with the orders dated 20.01.2020 passed by the Commission by depositing penalty of Rs. 10,000/- which was imposed upon the concerned Public Information Officer of office of Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot.

Neither the appellant, Sh. Jasbir Singh nor the respondent PIO is present in today's hearing.

Another opportunity is given to the respondent PIO concerned to facilitate the appellant to inspect the relevant official record on 10.09.2020 at 11:00 A. M. to identify the required information and the appellant is advised to visit the office of the respondent to inspect the relevant official record on 10.09.2020 at 11:00 A. M to identify the information.

The respondent-PIO concerned is directed to supply the required information, which would be identified by the appellant after inspection, to him by the next date of hearing.

Sh. Gurnam Singh, Assistant Transport Officer-cum-PIO, Faridkot, would remain present during the inspection of the relevant official record.

An opportunity is also given to the appellant to confirm whether he has received the information, which would be supplied to him by the respondent PIO after inspection, or not and also to point out deficiencies, if any, in the information supplied to him, in writing, to the respondent PIO well in time so that the same could be removed by the respondent concerned by the next date of hearing.

As the respondent PIO concerned has not complied with the orders dated 20.01.2020 passed by the Commission, through which penalty of Rs. 10,000/- was imposed upon the concerned Public Information Officer of office of Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot, last and final opportunity is given to the respondent PIO concerned to comply with the orders dated 20.01.2020 passed by the Commission by depositing penalty of Rs. 10,000/- which was imposed upon the concerned Public Information Officer of office of Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot, by the next date of hearing and a copy of challan receipt be sent to the Commission positively. A copy of this order be sent to him through registered post.

A copy of this order be sent to State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh through registered post to ensure compliance of the order dated 20.01.2020 passed by the Commission regarding penalty, which was imposed upon the concerned Public Information Officer of office of Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot and to ensure the compliance of the above announced-order by the next date of hearing under intimation to the Commission. A copy of the order dated 20.01.2020 passed by the Commission be sent to him for ready reference.

Nevertheless, another opportunity is also given to both the parties to represent this case in person, on the next date of hearing <u>fixed through facility of Software/application</u> <u>'CISCO Webex Meetings'.</u>

The case is <u>adjourned to 14th October, 2020 (Wednesday) at 11:00 A. M. for</u> <u>hearing through facility of Software/application 'CISCO Webex Meetings'.</u>

Copies of the orders be sent to the parties.

Date:17th August, 2020

(Sanjiv Garg)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

(Regd. Post) The State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, Sector 17, Chandigarh

Encl : order dated 20.01.2020



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Jasbir Singh,

Village – Bholapur Jhabewal,

P. O. – Ramgarh,

Distt. – Ludhiana - 123455 (Punjab)

...Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer-cum-

Assistant Transport Officer,

(Regd. Post) O/o The Secretary,

Regional Transport Authority,

Faridkot (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority,

O/o The State Transport Commissioner, Pb.

SCO 177-178, Sector 17, Chandigarh

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 3011 of 2019

Present: None on behalf of the appellant.

None on behalf of the respondent.

ORDER

Heard through Video Conference vide NIC facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Faridkot.

This case was last heard on 03.07.2020 and the respondent PIO concerned was directed to facilitate the appellant to inspect the relevant official record on 16.07.2020 at 11:00 A. M. to identify the required information and the respondent-PIO concerned was directed to supply the required information, which would be identified by the appellant after inspection, to him. An opportunity was also given to the appellant to confirm whether he has received the information or not and also to point out deficiencies, if any, in the information supplied to him, in writing, to the respondent PIO well in time so that the same could be removed by the respondent concerned. Last and final opportunity was also given to the respondent PIO concerned to comply with the orders dated 20.01.2020 passed by the Commission by depositing penalty of Rs. 10,000/- which was imposed upon the concerned Public Information Officer of office of Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot.

Neither the appellant, Sh. Jasbir Singh nor the respondent PIO is present in today's hearing.

Another opportunity is given to the respondent PIO concerned to facilitate the appellant to inspect the relevant official record on 10.09.2020 at 11:00 A. M. to identify the required information and the appellant is advised to visit the office of the respondent to inspect the relevant official record on 10.09.2020 at 11:00 A. M to identify the information.

The respondent-PIO concerned is directed to supply the required information, which would be identified by the appellant after inspection, to him by the next date of hearing.

Sh. Gurnam Singh, Assistant Transport Officer-cum-PIO, Faridkot, would remain present during the inspection of the relevant official record.

An opportunity is also given to the appellant to confirm whether he has received the information, which would be supplied to him by the respondent PIO after inspection, or not and also to point out deficiencies, if any, in the information supplied to him, in writing, to the respondent PIO well in time so that the same could be removed by the respondent concerned by the next date of hearing.

As the respondent PIO concerned has not complied with the orders dated 20.01.2020 passed by the Commission, through which penalty of Rs. 10,000/- was imposed upon the concerned Public Information Officer of office of Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot, last and final opportunity is given to the respondent PIO concerned to comply with the orders dated 20.01.2020 passed by the Commission by depositing penalty of Rs. 10,000/- which was imposed upon the concerned Public Information Officer of office of Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot, by the next date of hearing and a copy of challan receipt be sent to the Commission positively. A copy of this order be sent to him through registered post.

A copy of this order be sent to State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh through registered post to ensure compliance of the order dated 20.01.2020 passed by the Commission regarding penalty, which was imposed upon the concerned Public Information Officer of office of Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Faridkot and to ensure the compliance of the above announced-order by the next date of hearing under intimation to the Commission. A copy of the order dated 20.01.2020 passed by the Commission be sent to him for ready reference.

Nevertheless, another opportunity is also given to both the parties to represent this case in person, on the next date of hearing <u>fixed through facility of Software/application 'CISCO Webex Meetings'.</u>

The case is <u>adjourned to 14th October, 2020 (Wednesday) at 11:00 A. M. for</u> <u>hearing through facility of Software/application 'CISCO Webex Meetings'.</u>

Copies of the orders be sent to the parties.

Date:17th August, 2020

(Sanjiv Garg)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

(Regd. Post) The State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, Sector 17, Chandigarh

Encl : order dated 20.01.2020