PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

RED CROSS BUILDING, SECTOR-16, MADHYA MARG, CHANDIGARH Tele No. 0172-2864112, FAX No. 0172-2864125, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com Email:psic22@punjabmail.gov.in



Shri Manohar Lal, S/o Shri Jagdish Chander, R/o House No 17, Street No 6, Satjot Nagar, Dhandra Road, Ludhiana.

Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Block Development Panchayat Officer, Inside PAU Block- I, Ludhiana.

Respondent

Complaint Case No. 990/2018

Date of RTI Application	Date of Reply, if any of SPIO	Date of First Appeal made, if any	Date of order, if any of FAA	Date of Complaint
12.07.2018	Nil	Nil	Nil	12.09.2018

Present: Sh. Manohar Lal, Appellant in person.

Sh. Teja Singh, VDO, O/o BDPO, Block - 1, PAU, Ludhiana - for Respondent.

Order

Following order was passed by this bench on 19.03.2019:

"The respondents are absent. On the last date of hearing the proxy for the respondent has assured this forum to provide the information to the complainant before the next date of hearing under intimation to the Commission.

None is present on behalf of respondents, nor has any written reply been filed. The Commission takes strong exception towards the callous and apathetic conduct of the respondent.

Apparently, they have violated the provisions of Section 7 (1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

The BDPO is hereby issued a show cause notice under section 20(1) of the Right to Information Act as to why a penalty at the rate of Rs. 250/- per day, subject to a maximum of Rs. 25000/- be not imposed upon him for the delay in the supply of information and also to why a suitable compensation under Section 19(8)(b) of the RTI Act, 2005, be not awarded to the complainant for the loss and detriment suffered by him. He is also afforded an opportunity of personal hearing on the next date of hearing, before taking any action."



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"The case has come up today for hearing. Sh. Hardeep Singh, Panchayat Secretary of Gram Panchayat, Satjot Nagar, submits that the street in question was not got constructed by the gram panchayat of the village of its location and the appellant has been informed by the BDPO accordingly. Simultaneously, he maintains that as the jurisdiction of the village has recently changed hands it is quite probable that the aforesaid construction might have been made by the gram panchayat of village Dhandla, its erstwhile local body. The Block Dev. & Panchayat Officer, Block – 1, PAU, Ludhiana, is hereby directed to clarify the position in the interest of the transparency to the complainant before the next date of hearing failing which it shall be presumed that they are willfully suppressing the information and the follow up action for such conduct shall be taken. Be it noted that a show cause notice stands already issued to him.

The case has again come up for hearing. Sh. Gurmail Singh, BDPO has come present. He has communicated in writing that his JE is on leave and as such he is not in position to give him the information. He says that the information shall be provided as and when JE joins.

The Commission is not inclined to accept the submission of the respondent. The original application was filed on 12.07.2018. Even after a lapse of about seven months the respondent is beating about the bush. The Commission senses malafide on the part of the respondent to suppress the information. A final opportunity is afforded to him to give the information complete in all respects strictly in accord with the application as is available in the office. Be it noted that he is already under show cause notice and the Commission has yet to take a call on the same."

The case has come up today. The order was reserved. Sh. Teja Singh, VDO, appeared a bit late on date of hearing and submitted a written submission from O/o BDPO, Ludhiana I, which has

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been taken on record. Vide communication dated 16.04.2019, the Respondent has submitted that

while having examined the record carefully, it has been found that the street in contention has never

been constructed by either of Panchayats. The Commission has no reason to disbelief them. The

Commission feels that the Complainant has been adequately informed and no more intervention of

the Commission is desirable.

Disposed.

18.04.2019

Sd/-(Yashvir Mahajan) State Information Commissioner