PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION RED CROSS BUILDING, SECTOR-16, MADHYA MARG, CHANDIGARH Tele No. 0172-2864112, FAX No. 0172-2864125,

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Sh.Aditya Pandey, H.No.174,Sector-21A, Chandigarh.

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Addl. Chief Secretary Deptt. Of Home Affairs & Justice, Pb. Home Branch-4, Pb.Civil Sectt.-1 Chandigarh

Public Information Officer, O/o Addl. Chief Secretary Deptt. Of Home Affairs & Justice, Pb. Home Branch-4, Pb.Civil Sectt.-1 Chandigarh

Respondent

Appeal Case No.1434/2019

Date of RTI Application	• • •	Date of First Appeal made, if any	,	Date of Second Appeal/ Complaint
28.09.2018	Nil	09.01.2019	Nil	24.04.2019

Present: Sh.Nitin Kaushal, Advocate on behalf of appellant.

Sh.Jasparjeet Singh, SDO O/o Director, Mines & Geology, Pb. On behalf of

respondents.

ORDER:

The appellant has asked for the information connected with the report of Commission of Enquiry headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.S. Narang (Retd.) under Section 11 of the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 and some allied information. The respondents have filed the written statement in response to notice of the Commission. A copy has been handed over on the spot to the counsel for the appellant. He may like to file a rejoinder to the same in case they desire so, with an advance copy to the respondents as well.

To come up on 30.07.2019 at 11.30 AM for arguments.

Sd/-(Yashvir Mahajan) State Information Commissioner

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Sh. Gagandeep Kumar, S/o Sh. Joginder Pal, VPO Kathu Nangal, District Amritsar.

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Majitha, District Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority O/o Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Majitha, District Amritsar.

Respondents

Appeal Case No.1396/2019

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 Second Appeal/ Complaint

Present: Sh.Gagandeep Kumar, Appellant is absent.

Sh.Sukhwinder Singh, Supdt. O/o BDPO Majitha- for respondents.

ORDER:

The appellant has sought an elaborate information about the administrative structure and jurisdiction of Block Development Officer, Majitha, District Amritsar. Besides, he has also asked about the amount of the grant received during the years 2007-2017. Some of the information which is purely personal in nature of the officials has also been sought.

The appellant is absent. Nothing has been heard from him also. Shri Sukhwinder Singh, Superintendent in the office of BDPO Majitha who is present, has submitted a copy of the reply along with the information sent to the appellant on 03.06.2019. The Commission has perused it. It seems to be in order. The Commission feels that he has been sufficiently informed. No further intervention is desirable. Nonetheless, the respondents are reprimanded and warned to be cautious in future to ensure timely supply of the information. **Disposed.**

Sd/-(Yashvir Mahajan) State Information Commissioner

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Sh. Harjap Singh Boparai, S/o Sh. Kuldeep Singh Boparai, VPO-Ghudani Kalan, Tehsil-Payal, District-Ludhiana.

Complainant

Public Information Officer.

O/o Block Development & Panchayat Officer,

Doraha, Ludhiana.

Respondent

Complaint Case No.368/2019

Versus

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 Second Appeal/ Complaint
11.02.2019	Nil	Nil	Nil	10.04.2019

Present: Sh.Harjap Singh Boparai, complainant is present.

None is present on behalf of respondents.

ORDER:

The complainant has sought information about the solar lights having been installed in Village Ghudani Kalan, Tehsil Payal, District Ludhiana during the period from January, 2014 to December, 2018. Having failed to elicit any response from the PIO, he has filed the complaint with the Commission. The complainant is present. He has acknowledged having received the information to his satisfaction. The Commission takes serious note of the delay in providing the information. BDPO Doraha is hereby cautioned to be watchful in future. Any indifference shall warrant penal consequences in future.

Disposed.

Sd/-(Yashvir Mahajan) State Information Commissioner

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Sh. Gurmeet Singh, S/o Sh. Surmukh Singh, 2072, Bhai Mastan Singh Nagar, Sri Muktsar Sahib.

Appellant

Versus Public Information Officer, O/o Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Sri Muktsar Sahib.

First Appellate Authority, O/o District Development & Panchayat Officer, Sri Muktsar Sahib.

Respondents

Appeal Case No.1345/2019

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 Second Appeal/ Complaint
16.12.2018	Nil	23.01.2019	Nil	09.04.2019

Present: Gurmeet Singh, appellant is present.

Sh. Vijaypal Singh, Panchayat Secretary O/o BDPO, Sri Muktsar Sahib

ORDER:

The appellant has sought the information about the estimates of the interlocking work having been executed in the streets of Village Chibranwali, District Sri Muktsar Sahib during the period from 01.04.2017 to 30.11.2018 along with the cross sections.

Shri Vijaypal Singh, Panchayat Secretary has brought along a copy of the information purported to have been sent to the appellant. Its perusal suggests it to be a wishywashy and abstract. The concerned Junior Engineer reportedly is silent and is not sharing the information.

The Commission considers him to be a deemed PIO and desires him to provide the information of the estimates of the works along with entries in the Measurement Book to the information seeker within 10 days positively from the receipt of this order, failing which it shall be considered as a willful obstruction of flow of the information and the penal consequences shall follow.

To come up on 30.07.2019 at 11.30 AM.

Sd/-(Yashvir Mahajan) State Information Commissioner

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Sh. Major Singh, S/o Sh. Pala Singh, Village-Sehjadi, Block-Ghall Khurd, Tehsil & District-Ferozepur.

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Ghall Khurd, Tehsil & District- Ferozepur.

First Appellate Authority O/o District Development & Panchayat Officer Ferozepur.

Respondents

Appeal Case No.1347/2019

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 Second Appeal/ Complaint
28.06.2018	Nil	13.09.2018	Nil	02.04.2019

Present: Major Singh, Appellant is present.

Sh.Gurpreet Singh, Panchayat Secretary with

Sh.Gurpritam Singh, Junior Engineer - for respondents.

ORDER:

The respondents have brought along the information which has been handed over on spot to the appellant. The appellant seems satisfied. There is substantial delay. The respondents ascribe it to their pre-occupation in the conduct of couple of elections of Panchayats followed by that of Lok Sabha. The Commission takes serious note of it. Nonetheless, they are hereby desired to be cautious in future. No further intervention is called for. **The appeal is disposed.**

Sd/-(Yashvir Mahajan) State Information Commissioner

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Sh. Ranjit Singh, #63, Phase-3B-1, SAS Nagar.

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Nadala, Distt. Ferozepur.

First Appellate Authority O/o District Development & Panchayat Officer Kapurthala.

Respondents

Appeal Case No.1351/2019

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 Second Appeal/ Complaint
24.10.2018	Nil	26.11.2018	Nil	09.04.2019

Present: Shri Ranjit Singh, appellant in person.

None is present on behalf of respondents.

ORDER:

The appellant had sought an information about the grant of Rs.2.00 lacs received from the Government and its utilization certificate, besides the copies of bills of the expenditure incurred on the four-walling of the of the cremation ground in Village Khalil. The BDPO Nadala vide his communication dated 03.01.2019 has communicated that the Gram Panchayat has not executed any work as suggested in the original application. Resultantly, no information is available on the subject sought for.

The appellant has suggested that they have changed the purpose of the grant themselves and executed other works. The Commission is not authorized to look into such complaints if there has been any diversion of the funds. The appellant in case of his grievance may approach the Director, Rural Development & Panchayats, Punjab or civil authorities. The Commission feels that he has been suitable informed. **The appeal is disposed**.

18.06.2019

Sd/-(Yashvir Mahajan) State Information Commissioner

Copy to:

The Director, Rural Development & Panchayats, Punjab, Vikas Bhawan, Phase-VIII, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali). He is directed to look into the matter and take appropriate action.

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Sh. Paramjit Singh, S/o Sh. Jarnail Singh, H.No.816, St.No.11, Ward No.21, Guru Nanak Nagari, Davindra Road, Malout, Distt. Sri Muktsar Sahib

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Malout, District Sri Muktsar Sahib.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Malout, District Sri Muktsar Sahib.

Respondents

Appeal Case No.1391/2019

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 Second Appeal/ Complaint

Present: Sh.Paramjit Singh, Appellant is present.

Sh. Harjinder Singh, Supdt. O/o BDPO Malout -for respondents.

ORDER:

The information sought by the appellant relates to Village Burj Sidhwan, Tehsil Malout, District Sri Muktsar Sahib. The respondents say that the information has been provided through registered cover. The appellant admits to have received the information without certification of the documents. The Superintendent, who is present, has been directed to arrange the certification of all the documents.

The matter shall be heard through Video Conference on 21.08.2019 at 11.30

AM in the office of D.C. Sri Muktsar Sahib.

Sd/-(Yashvir Mahajan) State Information Commissioner

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Sh. Jaskaran Singh, S/o Sh. Jarnail Singh, H.No.816, St.No.11, Ward No.21, Guru Nanak Nagari,Davindra Road, Malout, District-Sri Muktsar Sahib.

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Malout, District-Sri Muktsar Sahib.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Malout, District-Sri Muktsar Sahib.

Respondents

Appeal Case No.1393/2019

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 Second Appeal/ Complaint
28.11.2018	Nil	07.01.2019	Nil	11.04.2019

Present: Sh.Paramjit Singh, for the Appellant.

Sh. Harjinder Singh, Supdt. O/o BDPO Malout -for respondents.

ORDER:

The information sought by the appellant relates to Village Burj Sidhwan, Tehsil Malout, District Sri Muktsar Sahib. The respondents say that the information has been provided through registered cover. The appellant admits to have received the information without certification of the documents. The Superintendent who is present, has been directed to arrange the certification of all the documents.

The matter shall be heard through Video Conference on 21.08.2019 at 11.30 AM in the office of D.C. Sri Muktsar Sahib.

Sd/-(Yashvir Mahajan) State Information Commissioner

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Versus



Sh. Jaswinder Singh S/o Sh. Gurdev Singh Village Lambhwali Tehsil Jaito, Distt. Faridkot.

Appellant

Public Information Officer
O/o Panchayat Secretary
Gram Panchayat Lambhwali

Gram Panchayat, Lambhwali Tehsil Jaito, Distt. Faridkot.

First Appellate Authority O/o Block Development & Panchayat Officer Jaito, District Faridkot.

Respondents

Appeal Case No.2270/2019

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 Second Appeal/
		ir any		Complaint

Present: Sh.Jaswinder Singh, Appellant is present.

Sh.Resham Singh, Panchayat Secretary - behalf of the Respondent.

<u>Order</u>

The matter is adjourned on the request of the parties. The Commission hopes that the deficiencies pointed out by the appellant shall be meted out before the next date of hearing.

To come up on 30.07.2019 at 11.30 AM.

Sd/-(Yashvir Mahajan) State Information Commissioner

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Sh. Gopal Singh, S/o Sh. Kartar Singh Village-Peeru Wala, PO Khai Pheme Ki, Tehsil & Distt. Ferozepur.

Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Block Development & Panchayat Officer,

Ferozepur.

Respondent

Complaint Case No.363 of 2019 & 364/2019

Date of RTI Application	Date of Reply, if any of SPIO	Date of First Appeal made, if	Date of order, if any of FAA	Date of Second Appeal/
		any		Complaint
08.01.2019/04.04.2019	Nil	Nil	Nil	09.04.2019

Present: Gopal Singh, Complainant is present.

Sh.Sukhwinder Singh, Panchayat Secretary is present

on behalf of respondents.

ORDER:

The information sought is the same from the same respondents by the same complainant. Both these complaints are being clubbed together and shall be disposed of by a single order.

Shri Sukhwinder Singh, Panchayat Secretary has brought along a reply, which has been transmitted on spot to the complainant. The complainant is seeking certified copies of all the documents of the official record of the respondent for the period 2013-2018. The Commission feels that it shall entail a tremendous exercise, which for sure shall divert the resources and disrupt the normal functioning of the office of respondent. The respondent is advised to allow the complainant inspection of the record within 10 days of the receipt of order and provide him certified copies of the documents not beyond 150 pages.

To come up on 30.07.2019 at 11.30 AM.

Sd/-(Yashvir Mahajan) State Information Commissioner

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Sh. Tejinder Singh S/o Sh. Bhagwant Singh Village Binaheri Tehsil Nabha, Distt. Patiala.

Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer O/o Block Development & Panchayat Officer Nabha, District Patiala.

Respondent

Complaint Case No.137/2019

Date of RTI Application	Date of Reply, if any of SPIO		Date of order, if any of FAA	Date of Second Appeal/ Complaint
20.082018	Nil	Nil	Nil	04.02.2019

Present: Sh.Tejinder Singh, Complainant is absent.

None is present on behalf of the Respondent.

Order

The following order was passed on last date of hearing on 30.04.2019:-

"The original application was filed on 20.08.2018. Having failed to get information the appellant had made an appeal with the First Appellate Authority. That too having proved abortive the appellant filed second appeal with the Commission.

The appellant had sought information from the BDPO, Nabha about the details of various grants and income having accrued to the gram panchayat of village Binaheri, Tehsil Nabha, District Patiala during the period from 2013 to 2018 and the works executed therewith. The respondent BDPO, Nabha had demanded an amount of Rs.2,865/- from the applicant as the cost of providing information which was duly deposited by him on 06.09.2018.

Sh. Vinod Kumar who is present in the Court on behalf of the respondent submits that the record asked for is not available with him as his predecessor did not hand it over to him.

The issue is very intriguing. The BDPO, Nabha has demanded a precise amount of Rs.2,865/- which obviously should have been calculated on the basis of the number of pages that would have entailed in giving the information by the number of pages that would have entailed in giving the information. To take a position at this stage that the record is not available with him puts them in a vulnerable spot. Having failed to do the same the Commission is convinced that the PIO – cum – BDPO, Nabha is willfully and malafidely sitting over the information. Having violated Section 7(1) of the RTI Act he has rendered himself liable for penal consequences.

Complaint Case No.137/2019



Sh. Surinder Singh, PIO – cum – BDPO, Nabha is issued a show cause notice to explain in a self- attested affidavit as to why a penalty @ Rs.250/- per day of delay subject to maximum of Rs.25,000/- till the complete information is furnished, be not imposed under Section 20(1) of RTI Act, 2005 on him for causing willful delay / denial of the information to the RTI applicant and why the compensation be not awarded to the Complainant under Section 19 (8) (b) of the Act for the detriment suffered by him.

In addition to the written reply, the PIO is also given an opportunity under Section 20 (1) proviso thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may take note that in case he does not file his written reply and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the date fixed, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission shall proceed to take further proceedings against him ex parte.

The case has come up today. None is present. The complainant has sent a communication that he has received the information and he is satisfied with the information provided to him. The above communication does not steer the PIO clear of the notice issued to him, as the delay of more than 100 days and the details of the amount asked for, has not been explained. Final opportunity is afforded to him to give explanation in writing by way of an affidavit as to why the proposed penalty should not be imposed".

Vide his communication dated 10.06.2019, BDPO Nabha has advised the Commission to file the appeal without explaining the delay which has been caused in supplying the information to the complainant. Final opportunity is afforded to him to explain the delay and file a proper reply to the show cause notice issued for imposition of penalty.

To come up for hearing on 30.07.2019 at 11.30 AM.

Sd/-(Yashvir Mahajan) State Information Commissioner

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Sh. Jugraj Singh, S/o Sh. Sukhmandar Singh, R/o Makko Patti, Near Lopon Road, Village Daudhar Sharki, Distt. Moga. (142053)

Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Moga.

Respondent

Complaint Case No.1035/2018

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
23.08.2018	Nil	Nil	Nil	26.09.2018

Present: Sh. Jugraj Singh, Complainant in person,

None on behalf of the Respondent.

ORDER

The following order was made by this forum on 16.04.2019:

24.01.2019

"The complainant had sought information about the detail of grants received by the gram panchayat of Village Daudhar Sharki, Block Moga – 1 and the details of expenditure incurred therewith.

The respondent is neither present nor any written reply has been filed by him. The Commission takes serious note of it. The PIO is directed to provide the information before the next date of hearing and explain the reasons for delay. Be it noted that no further opportunity shall be afforded and the penal provisions shall be invoked."

"The case has come up today. The respondent is absent on trot. No written reply has also been received from them. Apparently the respondent has rendered himself liable for punishment under Section 20(1) of the Act having failed to discharge his liability under Section 7(1) to provide the information during the mandated period.

The PIO respondent is issued a show cause notice to explain in a self- attested affidavit as to why a penalty @ Rs.250/- per day of delay subject to maximum of Rs.25,000/- till the complete information is furnished, be not imposed under Section 20(1) of RTI Act, 2005 on him for causing willful delay / denial of the information to the RTI applicant and why the compensation be not awarded to the Complainant under Section 19 (8) (b) of the Act for the detriment suffered by him.



Complaint Case No.1035/2018

In addition to the written reply, the PIO is also given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may take note that in case he does not file his written reply and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the date fixed, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission shall proceed to take further proceedings against him ex parte."

16.04.2019

The matter has come up for hearing today. Sh. Sukhbir Singh, PIO – cum – Panchayat Secretary, BDPO Office, Moga – 1, was duly desired under Section 6(3) of the RTI Act by the BDPO, Moga -1 to provide the information. However, he has chosen to maintain a studied silence despite a couple of directions issued by the Commission as well as BDPO, Moga – 1. The Commission cannot keep it lying down. Such a misconduct and defiance on the part of the public servant if left unpunished can be infectious.

The original application was filed on 23.08.2018. The delay is substantial and beyond 100 days. The culpability of violation of Section 7(1) is established. Exercising its authority under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act imposes a penalty of Rs.15,000/- (Rupees Fifteen thousand only) in lump sum on Sh. Sukhbir Singh, PIO – cum – Panchayat Secretary, BDPO Office, Moga - 1 which shall be recovered from his salary in three equal installments commencing from the month of June, 2019.

The Block Development & Panchayat Officer. Block Moga - 1 who is the Drawing & Disbursing Officer shall ensure that the amount of penalty is deducted from his salary and deposited in the government treasury under the head given below:

- 0070-Other Administrative Services- 60 Other Services
- 800 Other Receipts- 86 Fee under RTI Act, 2005

A copy of the challan shall be sent to the Commission for record immediately.

His appointing authority is directed to proceed against him for the grave indiscipline shown by him and issue him charge-sheet under intimation to the Commission. Meanwhile, the BDPO, Block Moga – 1 shall ensure that the record in question is arranged to be procured from him and provided to the complainant. He shall report compliance before the next date of hearing.

18.06.2019

None is present. The respondents have not reported the compliance of the orders. Shall be re-heard on 30.07.2019 at 11.30 AM.

Sd/-(Yashvir Mahajan) State Information Commissioner