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Chamanpreet Sharma,

s/o Nathu Ram, VPO Mehlan Chowk, Tehsil Sunam, District Sangrur.

Versus

Public Information Officer,

o/o Assistant Inspector General of Police, Personal-1, o/o Director General of Police, Punjab, Chandigarh. First Appellate Authority, o/o Inspector General of Police, Punjab Police Headquarters, Sector-9, Chandigarh.

Appeal Case No. 3482 of 2019

PRESENT:

Chamanpreet Sharma (Appellant) Purshotam Kumar, Head Constable (for the respondent) 94171-31510

ORDER:

- 1. The RTI application is dated **28.06.19** vide which the appellant has sought <u>information</u> <u>pertaining to the recruitment of constables on 31.5.16 and Manjinder Singh's application for changing his category to 'ward of police personnel' etc. as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **28.7.19** and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **20.9.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Notice was issued to the parties for first hearing in the Commission on **20.11.19**.</u>
- 2. Both parties are present. The respondent PIO, represented by Head Constable Purshotam Kumar has submitted that the information has been denied under Section 11 and 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act. However, this Commission is of the view that neither exemption applies to the requested information, and directs the respondent PIO to furnish the information requested at points A to E of this RTI application dated 28.6.19, within 10 days.
- 3. The Complainant is requested to intimate this Commission as and when he received this information.
- 4. Next hearing on 22.1.20 at 11.00 am.

Sd/(ASIT JOLLY)
State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh 20.11.19

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Ajit Singh, s/o Late Babu Singh, Rampur Saini, Tehsil Dera Bassi, District Mohali.

Versus

Public Information Officer, o/o Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Dera Bassi, District Mohali. First Appellate Authority, o/o Regional Deputy Director, Local Government, Room No. 409, 4th Floor, Block- A, Mini Secretariat, Patiala.

Appeal Case No. 3484 of 2019

PRESENT:

Ajit Singh(Appellant) 98553-22204 Hardeep Singh(for the respondent) 86992-06161

ORDER:

- 1. The RTI application is dated **8.5.19** vide which the appellant has sought <u>information</u> regarding the renewal of contract and works allotted to the Rampur Saniya Cooperative Kirt te Usaari Sabha; works completed by it between January 2015 and April 2019 etc. as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **8.7.19** and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **20.9.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Notice was issued to the parties for first hearing in the Commission on **20.11.19**.
- 2. Both parties are present. The respondent PIO represented by Hardeep Singh, is directed to furnish the complete information requested to point 1 to 4 of this RTI application dated 8.5.19. He is also directed to submit a written reply explaining the delay in addressing this RTI request.
- 3. Next hearing on 22.1.20 at 11.00 am.

Sd/(ASIT JOLLY)

Chandigarh 20.11.19

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Prem Kumar Rattan,

78/8, Park Road, New Mandi, Dhuri, Tehsil Dhuri, District Sangrur.

Versus

Public Information Officer,

o/o Additional Director General of Police, NRI Wing, Phase-7, Mohali. First Appellate Authority, o/o Additional Director General of Police, NRI Wing, Phase-7, Mohali.

Appeal Case No. 3492 of 2019

PRESENT:

(Appellant) Absent Veerpal Kaur, Inspector (for the Respondent) 98882-17528

ORDER:

- 1. The RTI application is dated **20.6.19** vide which the appellant has sought <u>information</u> <u>pertaining to the inquiry report from Complaint UID 1326066 etc.</u> as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **20.7.19** and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **20.9.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Notice was issued to the parties for first hearing in the Commission on **20.11.19**.
- 2. The appellant is absent without intimation to this Commission. The respondent PIO, represented by Veerpal Kaur, Inspector has submitted that the requested information was offered to the appellant, but he refused to accept it and insisted that he would only receive it at the hearing in the Commission. The respondent PIO has submitted an attested copy of the information, which she has stated, is common to appeal cases 3492/19 and 3493/19, as well as AC 1493/19 and 1498/19, which are slated for hearing before State Information Commissioner Sh Khushwant Singh on 2.1.20.
- 3. Based on the respondent's contention, I believe it would be prudent and in the interest of justice that the aforementioned appeal cases 3492, 3493, 1493 and 1498 be clubbed and heard together by either one bench or perhaps a double bench.
- 4. Copies of this Order are being communicated to the Honorable Chief Information Commissioner Sh. Suresh Arora for necessary action, and to SIC Sh. Kushwant Singh and Deputy Registrar Sh. Shingara Singh.

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5. Next date of hearing to be notified following the CIC's decision.

Sd/(ASIT JOLLY)
State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh 20.11.19

CC:

- 1. Sh Suresh Arora, Chief Information Commissioner, Punjab.
- 2. Sh Khushwant Singh, State Information Commissioner Punjab.
- 3. Sh Shingara Singh, Deputy Registrar, Punjab State Information Commission.

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Prem Kumar Rattan,

78/8, Park Road, New Mandi, Dhuri, Tehsil: Dhuri, Distt: Sangrur.

Versus

Public Information Officer,

o/o Additional Director General of Police. NRI Wing, Phase-7, Mohali. First Appellate Authority, o/o Additional Director General of Police. NRI Wing, Phase-7, Mohali.

Appeal Case No. 3493 of 2019

PRESENT:

(Appellant) Absent Veerpal Kaur, Inspector (for the Respondent) 98882-17528

ORDER:

- 1. The RTI application is dated 20.6.19 vide which the appellant has sought information pertaining to the inquiry report from Complaint UID 1333175 and UID 1293408 etc. as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on 20.7.19 and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 20.9.19 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Notice was issued to the parties for first hearing in the Commission on **20.11.19**.
- 2. The appellant is absent without intimation to this Commission. The respondent PIO, represented by Veerpal Kaur, Inspector has submitted that the requested information was offered to the appellant, but he refused to accept it and insisted that he would only receive it at the hearing in the Commission. The respondent PIO has submitted an attested copy of the information, which she has stated, is common to appeal cases 3492/19 and 3493/19, as well as AC 1493/19 and 1498/19, which are slated for hearing before State Information Commissioner Sh Khushwant Singh on 2.1.20.
- 3. Based on the respondent's contention, I believe it would be prudent and in the interest of justice that the aforementioned appeal cases - 3492, 3493, 1493 and 1498 - be clubbed and heard together by either one bench or perhaps a double bench.
- 4. Copies of this Order are being communicated to the Honorable Chief Information Commissioner Sh. Suresh Arora for necessary action, and to SIC Sh. Kushwant Singh and Deputy Registrar Sh. Shingara Singh.

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5. Next date of hearing to be notified following the CIC's decision.

Sd/(ASIT JOLLY)
State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh 20.11.19

CC:

- 1. Sh Suresh Arora, Chief Information Commissioner, Punjab
- 2. Sh Khushwant Singh, Information Commissioner Punjab
- 3. Sh Shingara Singh, Deputy Registrar, Punjab State Information Commission

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Rajneesh Bharara,

520, Preet Colony, Zirakpur, District SAS Nagar - 140603 Mohali.

Versus

Public Information Officer, o/o Municipal Council, Zirakpur. First Appellate Authority, o/o Deputy Commissioner, Mohali.

Appeal Case No. 3539 of 2019

PRESENT:

Rajnish Bharara (Appellant) 99188-96100 Gurinder Singh, APIO-Cum-Superintendent (for the Respondent) 96460-15752 Sarabjit Singh (for the respondent)

ORDER:

- 1. The RTI application is dated **8.7.19** vide which the appellant has sought **information** pertaining to authorized and unauthorized colonies etc. as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on 9.8.19 and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 24.9.19 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Notice was issued to the parties for first hearing in the Commission on 20.11.19.
- 2. Both parties are present. The respondent PIO, represented by Gurinder Singh, Superintendent-cum-APIO and Sarabjit Singh, Building Inspector are present, but without any written reply to this Commission's notice. They however gave an assurance that the information requested by the appellant will be supplied to him before the next hearing.
- 3. Next hearing on 10.1.20 at 11.00 am.

Sd/-(ASIT JOLLY) State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh 20.11.19

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Rajesh Giri,

Opposite Tanki No.2, Street No. 10, Basant Nagar, Khanna.

Versus

Public Information Officer, o/o Director Public Instruction (SE), Punjab, Mohali. First Appellate Authority, o/o Director Public Instruction (SE), Punjab, Mohali.

Appeal Case No. 2779 of 2019

PRESENT: (Appellant) Absent (Respondent) Absent

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on **5.9.19** and **11.10.19**)

- 1. The RTI application is dated **1.5.19** vide which the appellant has sought <u>information</u> regarding a Punjab Government memo on property tax returns etc. as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **31.7.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The case was last heard on **11.10.19**.
- 2. Both parties are absent, although the appellant Rajesh Giri, a lecturer, has intimated this Commission of his inability to attend this hearing because his absence from work would be detrimental to his students. In an emailed letter dated 11.11.19, he has also stated that the respondent PIO has supplied incomplete information.
- 3. The respondent PIO, however, is absent, for the 3rd successive hearing without any intimation to this Commission or any reply to the Commission's original notice as well as 2 subsequent orders, including a Show Cause Notice on 11.10.19.

Order: Keeping all the facts of the case in mind, this is a fit case to invoke Section 20(1) of RTI Act and impose a penalty on the respondent PIO. Section 20 (1) reads as follows:

"Where the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission, as the case may be, at the time of deciding any complaint or appeal is of the opinion that the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, has, without any reasonable cause, refused to receive an application for information or has not furnished information within the time specified under sub Section (1) of Section 7 or malafidely denied the request for information or knowingly given incorrect incomplete or misleading information or destroyed information which was the subject of the request or obstructed in any manner in furnishing the information, it shall impose a penalty of 250/- Rupees each day till application is

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received or information is furnished, so however, the total amount of such penalty shall not exceed Twenty Five Thousand Rupees.

Provided that the Central Public Officer or the State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, shall be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard before any penalty is imposed on him.

Provided further that the burden of proving that he acted reasonably and diligently shall be on the Central Information Officer, as the case may be."

The onus and responsibility lies on the PIO to ensure the transmission of the complete information to the appellant. The PIO, Jaskirat Kaur, Assistant Director, DPI (SE), Punjab, Mohali, is hereby held guilty for not providing the information on time as prescribed under Section 7, which is within 30 days of the receipt of the request, and for, repeated and willful defiance of the Punjab State Information Commission's orders.

A penalty of Rupees Five Thousand (Rs. 5000/-) is hereby imposed upon the PIO, O/o Director Public Instruction (SE), Punjab, Mohali, which be deducted from her salary in two monthly installment and deposited in the Government Treasury under head "0070-Other Administrative Services-60-other Services-800-Other Receipts-86-Fees Under the Right to Information Act." The PIO is directed to duly inform the Commission of the compliance of the orders by producing a copy of the challan as proof that the penalty was deposited in the Government Treasury.

- 4. A copy of this Order be communicated to the Director Public Instruction (SE) for Information.
- 5. Next hearing on 22.1.20 at 11.00 am.

Sd/(ASIT JOLLY)
State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh 20.11.19

CC:

- 1. Director Public Instruction (SE), Punjab, Mohali
- 2. Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Sector-9, Chandigarh.

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Sandeep Singh (Ex. Rect.),

s/o Kashmir Singh, Village Muazam, Tehsil & District Fazilka – 152123

Versus

Public Information Officer,

o/o Guardians of Governance, (Defence Welfare), Tehsil Office, Village Ghallu – 152122, Tehsil & District- Fazilka.

Complaint Case No. 837 of 2019

PRESENT:

(Complainant)Absent Harsh Vir Singh, PIO-Cum-Brigadier (Retd.) (Respondent) 97809-00203

ORDER:

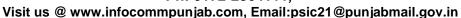
- 1. The complainant, **Sandeep Singh**, filed this RTI application dated 17.6.19 and sought **information pertaining to a 28.5.19 complaint against him etc**., from the PIO o/o Guardians of Governance, (Defence Welfare), Fazilka. When no information was received, the Complainant filed a complaint under Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005 to the Commission on **20.9.19**.
- 2. The appellant is absent without any intimation to the Commission. The respondent PIO, Brig (retd.) Harsh Vir Singh is present in person and has submitted a written reply stating that the information was sent to the Complainant by Registered Post on 4.9.19 and again on 13.11.19. He also explained that there was a delay in addressing this RTI application because the PIO o/o GOG is located at Chandigarh and that the complainant's request was wrongly addressed to Fazilka.
- 3. While accepting the respondent PIO's explanation, this Commission grants the complainant one final opportunity to be heard in person.
- 4. The respondent PIO is excused from appearing at the next hearing.
- 5. Next hearing on 22.1.20 at 11.00 am.

Sd/(ASIT JOLLY)
State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh 20.11.19

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Sandeep Singh (Ex. Rect.),

S/o Sh. Kashmir Singh, Vill: Muazam, Tehsil & District- Fazilka-152123

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Guardians of Governance. (Defence Welfare). Near Tehsildar Office, S.D.M.s Complex, Tehsil & District- Fazilka-152123

Complaint Case No. 838 of 2019

PRESENT:

(Complainant) Absent Harsh Vir Singh, PIO-Cum-Brigadier (Retd.) (Respondent) 97809-00203

ORDER:

- 1. The complainant, Sandeep Singh, filed this RTI application dated 17.6.19 and sought information pertaining to a 28.5.19 complaint against him etc., from the PIO o/o Guardians of Governance, (Defence Welfare), Fazilka. When no information was received, the Complainant filed a complaint under Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005 to the Commission on 20.9.19.
- 2. The appellant is absent without any intimation to the Commission. The respondent PIO, Brig (retd.) Harsh Vir Singh is present in person and has submitted a written reply stating that the information was sent to the Complainant by Registered Post on 4.9.19 and again on 13.11.19. He also explained that there was a delay in addressing this RTI application because the PIO o/o GOG is located at Chandigarh and that the complainant's request was wrongly addressed to Fazilka.
- 3. While accepting the respondent PIO's explanation, this Commission notes that the information requested in this RTI application is identical to that sought in CC 837. So while cautioning the complainant Sandeep Singh against filing multiple RTI applications for the same information in future, this Commission grants him one final opportunity to be heard in person.
- 4. The respondent PIO is excused from appearing at the next hearing.
- 5. Next hearing on 22.1.20 at 11.00 am.

Sd/-(ASIT JOLLY) State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh 20.11.19

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Sitara Singh,

s/o Bir Singh, Village Chak Aul (Lal Wala), Tehsil Ainala, District Amritsar.

Versus

Public Information Officer,

o/o Senior Superintendent of Police (Rural), Amritsar.

Complaint Case No. 840 of 2019

PRESENT:

(Complainant) Absent (Respondent) Absent

ORDER:

- 1. The complainant, Sitara Singh, filed this RTI application dated 22.7.19 and sought information pertaining to the action taken on a complaint dated 20.3.19 against one Mahinder Singh etc., from the PIO o/o Senior Superintendent of Police (Rural), Amritsar. When no information was received, the Complainant filed a complaint under Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005 to the Commission on **20.9.19**.
- 2. Both parties are absent. But the Complainant has intimated the Commission of his inability to attend this hearing. The Respondent PIO is absent without any intimation. The Complainant has stated in an email to the Commission, that he has still not received the information.
- 3. This Commission grants the respondent PIO one more opportunity to furnish the information requested and submit a written reply to this Commission, explaining the long delay in addressing this RTI application.
- 4. Next hearing on 22.1.20 at 11.00 am.

Sd/-(ASIT JOLLY) State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh 20.11.19