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Shri Sushil Kumar, # 1410, Phase-1, Urban Estate, Dugri Road, Ludhiana.

..... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Nodal Officer (RTI Cell), PSPCL, Patiala.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Chief Engineer, Operational Central Zone, PSPCL, Ludhiana.

.....Respondent

Appeal Case No. 4084 of 2021

Present:-

- (i) Appellant absent.
- (ii) Shri Pal Singh, Senior Assistant, Technical-3, PSPCL, Patiala, in person.
- (iii) Shri Vipin Kumar, Deputy Secretary (Inquiry) PSPCL, Patiala in person.
- (iii) Shri Jaswinder Singh, Addl.SE, Shri Arshveer Singh, ASSA, P&M Division, PSPCL, Khanna on behalf of Chief Engineer, P&M Circle, PSPCL Ludhiana, in person.

ORDER

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 15.03.2022 passed by this Bench on the previous date of hearing.
- 2. The case has been heard today in Commission's office at Chandigarh. Shri Sushil Kumar, appellant has not come present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench or through CISCO Webex. However, e.mails dated 09.04.2022 (2 No.), 11.04.2022, 20.04.2022 (2 No.), 23.04.2022, 25.04.2022, 01.05.2022 (2 No.) and 16.06.2022 (3 No.) have been received from him addressed to CIC, Deputy Registrar and to this Bench, stating therein that he has not received information in spite of lapse of 300 days and that if information is not available, he may be provided affidavit by the PIO. He has further stated that he does not want to inspect the records and the case may not be closed without providing him complete information.
- 3. Shri Pal Singh, Sr. Asstt., PSPCL, Patiala comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench and states that the information as per the official record has been sent to the appellant through registered post and that as per orders of Hon'ble Bench, the appellant was called to examine the records vide letters dated 21.04.2022 and 06.06.2022, but he has not responded.
- 4. Shri Vipin Kumar, Deputy Secretary, Inquiries, PSCPL Patiala comes present to attend the hearing in person and states that the information has already been given to the appellant vide letter dated 30.06.2021 and 19.04.2021. As per directions of Hon'ble Bench, the appellant was also called to examine the records on 11.04.2022, 04.05.2022 and 02.06.2022 but he has not turned up.
- 5. Shri Jaswinder Singh, Addl. S.E. P&M Division, Khanna, attends the hearing in person before the bench on behalf of the Chief Engineer, P&M Circle, PSPCL Ludhiana. He states that as per directions of the Hon'ble Bench, the appellant was called for examining the records on 25.05.2022, 01.06.2022 and was also called on mobile phone which he did not respond to.

- 6. The Bench observes that a number of e.mail messages have been received in the Commission at various e.mail addresses from the appellant. The perusal of the same reveals that the contents of all these e.mails are almost the same and it amounts to cluttering up various official e.mail lds. without any benefit as the contents are without any substance.
- 7. Post deliberations, the Bench, on hearing the versions of the Deputy Secretary (Inquiry), representative of PIO, Dy. Chief Engineer, Technical, PSPCL, Patiala and representative of PIO, P & M Circle, PSPCL, Ludhiana, the appellant has been supplied information as available and he failed to avail of the opportunity given for inspection of records. From the versions of the officials attending the hearing and the letters produced by them before the Bench, it transpires that the appellant has asked for information on ten points relating to three different PIOs which entails collection, collating and compilation of information from three PIOs and thus, multiple PIOs are involved.
- 8. The Bench, as per observations made above, is of the view that the appellant cannot seek information in single RTI application from multiple public authorities. A Full Bench of State Information Commission, Punjab has in Complaint Case No.2903 of 2011 decided on 13.01.2012, ruled as under:-

"We hold that under Section (3) of the Act ibid, the legal obligation of a PIO who receives a request for information under Section 6(1) of the Act is limited to transfer this request to only one public authority that hold the information. This obligation does not extend to transfer the request to multiple authorities.

- 9. The Bench further observes that the Nodal Officer, RTI Cell, PSPCL, Patiala, Deputy Secretary (Inquiry), PIO O/o Dy. Chief Engineer, Technical, PSPCL, Patiala and PIO, P&M Circle, PSPCL, Ludhiana, made efforts to supply information to the appellant but the information asked for by the appellant, in fact, entail the collection collating and compilation, thereby resulting in wastage of time of multiple PIOs involved. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in matter of CBSE vs. Aditya Bandopadhyay, (2011) 8 SCC 497, held as under:-
 - "67. Indiscriminate and impractical demands or directions under the RTI Act for disclosure of all and sundry information (unrelated to transparency and accountability in the functioning of public authorities and eradication of corruption) would be counterproductive as it will adversely affect the efficiency of the administration and result in the executive getting bogged down with the non-productive work of collecting and furnishing information. The Act should not be allowed to be misused or abused, to become a tool to obstruct the national development and integration, or to destroy the peace, tranquility and harmony among its citizens. Nor should it be converted into a tool of oppression or intimidation of honest officials striving to do their duty. The nation does not want a scenario where 75% of the staff of public authorities spends 75% of their time in collecting and furnishing information to applicants instead of discharging their regular duties. The threat of penalties under the RTI Act and the pressure of the authorities under the RTI Act should not lead to employees of a public authorities prioritizing "information furnishing", at the cost of their normal and regular duties.
- 10. In view of the above, it does not seem to be appropriate for the appellant to seek information which may entail engaging 75% of the employees of a public authority to collect and compile the information for furnishing the same to the appellant. The Bench advises the appellant to go for seeking information by filing separate RTI application before a specific public authority who has its separate PIO.
- 11. The Bench also observes that the three PIOs involved have, otherwise, supplied information to the appellant at various times which he refuses to acknowledge. In addition, opportunity offered to the appellant for inspection of related records has also been ignored by him.
- 12. In view of the aforesaid observations, the instant appeal case is disposed off and closed. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma(Retd))
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Chandigarh 22.06.2022

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Shri Bhupinder Punj, S/o Shri Braham Parkash, 186, VPO Lohara, Ludhiana.

..... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Police Commissioner, Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Director General of Police, Punjab, Chandigarh.

.....Respondent

Appeal Case No. 4026 of 2021

Present:-

- (i) Appellant- absent.
- (ii) ASI Tarsem Singh, RTI Cell O/o Police Commissioner, Ludhiana,

on behalf of the PIO in person.

ORDER

(Heard in person/on mobile phone)

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 15.03.2022 passed by this Bench on the previous hearing.
- 2. The case has been heard today in Commission's office at Chandigarh. Shri Bhupinder Punj, appellant has not come present to attend the hearing in person or through CISCO Webex.
- 3. ASI Tarsem Singh, RTI Cell O/o Police Commissioner, Ludhiana, comes present in person before the Bench to attend the hearing on behalf of the PIO. He states that the information has been sent to the appellant by registered post on 12.03.2022.
- 4. Shri Bhupinder Punj, appellant is contacted on mobile phone. On the asking of the Bench, he states that incomplete information has been supplied to him. He is also made to talk to the representative of PIO who explains to him the detail of information supplied. On the asking of the Bench, the representative of PIO states that whatever information is available in the official records, has been supplied to the appellant.
- 5. Post deliberations, the Bench directs the PIO to file an affidavit on non-judicial stamp paper, within 21 (Twenty one) days, duly signed by the PIO and attested by the Notary Public to the effect that the information as existing in the official records in AC No.4026/2021, has been supplied to the appellant. It be further stated that nothing has been concealed therein and the statement made is true and correct. Original affidavit be sent to the appellant and photocopy of the same be sent to the Commission for record. The representative of PIO assures to do the needful.
- 6. With the aforesaid directions, **the instant appeal case is disposed off and closed.** Copies of the Order be sent to the concerned parties.

Sd/-

Chandigarh 22.06.2022 ((Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma,(Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Shri Ajit Singh Talwandi R/o Village Niku Chak, PO Hajipur, Tehsil Mukerian, District Hoshiarpur.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer O/o Chairman, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL), Patiala.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Chairman, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL), Patiala.

(ii)

...Respondents

AC No.126/2022

Present: (i) Shri Ajit Singh Talwandi, Appellant, in person.

Shri Maan Singh, SDO, and Shri Surinder Singh, Sub Divisional Clerk, PSPCL, Hajipur, Division, Mukerian, PSPCL Distt. Hoshiarpur, in person on behalf of PIO.

ORDER:

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 15.03.2022 passed by this Bench on the previous hearing.
- 2. The case has been heard in Commission's office at Chandigarh. Shri Ajit Singh Talwandi, appellant comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench. He states that he has not been supplied information as per his RTI application.
- 3. Shri Maan Singh, SDO, Sub Division, PSPCL, Hajipur, District Hoshiarpur comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench and states that the appellant was supplied information as sought by him regarding the checking of electricity load at his house vide letter dated 13.10.2021 of Senior XEN, Distribution, PSPCL, Mukerian, District Hoshiarpur. He further states that penalty was imposed on the appellant after checking the load for having used electricity load in excess of the sanctioned load. He also states that an official was sent to the house of appellant to deliver information but he refused to take the same.
- 4. The appellant refutes the version of the representative of PIO and states that there is no excess use of electricity than the sanctioned load and that no one had visited his house to deliver information to him. On the asking of the Bench, the representative of PIO hands over a copy of letter dated 13.10.2021 to the appellant.

Cont..P-2

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-2-

AC No.126/2022

- Post deliberations, the Bench directs the PIO to file an affidavit on non-judicial stamp paper, within 21 (Twenty one) days, duly signed by the PIO and attested by the Notary Public to the effect that the information as existing in the official records in AC No.126/2022, has been supplied to the appellant. The information supplied is true and correct. It be further stated that nothing has been concealed therein. Original affidavit be sent to the appellant and photocopy of the same be sent to the Commission for record. The representative of PIO assures to do the needful. The PIO is, however, directed to make efforts to hand over the affidavit to the appellant by hand by calling him to the office or else, the same be sent by registered post.
- 6. With the aforesaid directions, **the instant appeal case is disposed off and closed.** Copies of the Order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 22.06.2022

Sd/-((Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma,(Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Shri Madan Lal, S/o Shri Om Parkash, Jain Niwas, MCB Zokne-2, H.No.10803, Street No.18, Prinda Road, 18, Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Bathinda-151001.

....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Dy. Superintendent of Police, Gidderbaha, District Sri Muktsar Sahib.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Inspector General of Police, Faridkot Range, Faridkot.

...Respondents

AC No.1969/2022

Present: (i) Shri Madan Lal, Appellant, in person

(ii) ASI Manjit Singh, RTI Cell, O/o SSP Sri Muktsar Sahib, on behalf of PIO/Respondent, in person.

ORDER:

- 1. The RTI application is dated 11.08.2018 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) on 23.02.2022 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 18.04.2022 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).
- 2. The notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 22.06.2022. Accordingly, the case has been heard today. Shri Madan Lal, appellant comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench and states that he has not been provided any information.
- 3. ASI Manjit Singh, RTI Cell, O/o SSP, Sri Muktsar Sahib comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench and produces before the Bench letter dated 17.06.2022 stating therein that with regard to the complaint of Arpana w/o Arvind Gupta, copy has been supplied to the appellant from time to time and regarding FIR No.09 dated 25.01.2019, the challan has been presented in the Court. On the asking of the Bench, copy of letter is handed over to the appellant who is not satisfied with the reply and wants that the copies of documents as asked for, be supplied to him.

..2.. <u>AC No. 1969 of 2022</u>

4. Post deliberations, the Bench directs the PIO to call the appellant to his office and allow him

access to the relevant official records. The appellant, after inspection of the records, will identify the additional

information as per his RTI application. The PIO is directed to supply point-wise information to the appellant,

before filing the affidavit.

5. After supplying information to the appellant, the Bench directs the PIO to file an affidavit on non-

judicial stamp paper, within 21 (Twenty one) days, duly signed by the PIO and attested by the Notary Public to the

effect that the information as existing in the official records in AC No.1969/2022, has been supplied to the

appellant. It be further stated that nothing has been concealed therein and the statement made is true and

correct. Original affidavit be sent to the appellant and photocopy of the same be sent to the Commission for

record. The representative of PIO assures to do the needful.

6. With the aforesaid directions, the instant appeal case is disposed off and closed. Copies of

the orders be sent to the concerned parties.

Sd/-

Chandigarh 22.06.2022

(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma, (Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN, SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.



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Shri Randeep, Street/Ward No.4, Prem Nagar, Sikhanwala Road, Kotkapura, District Faridkot-151204. Mobile No.8699723393.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer O/o Executive Officer Municipal Council, Sri Muktsar Sahib.

First Appellate Authority O/o Deputy Commissioner, Sri Muktsar Sahib.

...Respondents

AC No.1947/2022

Present: (i) Appellant- absent.

(ii) None on behalf of PIO/Respondent, in person.

ORDER:

- 1. The RTI application is dated 11.11.2021 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) on 13.12.2021 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 02.02.2022 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).
- 2. The notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 22.06.2022. Accordingly, the case has been heard today. Shri Randeep, appellant has not come present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench or through cisco webex.
- 3. Neither the PIO O/o Municipal Council, Sri Muktsar Sahib has come present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench or through cisco webex nor he has deputed any of his representatives to attend the hearing. However, a letter dated 20.06.2022 has been received by e.mail stating that due to certain pressing engagements, he is unable to attend the hearing and has requested for exemption from appearing in the hearing. Another e.mail dated 20.06.2022 has been received stating that the information has been sent to the appellant vide letter dated 23.12.2021 and again vide letter dated 13.06.2022, enclosing therewith a copy of the Assessment Register of Municipal Council, Sri Muktsar Sahib.

AC No. 1947 of 2022

4. The appellant is contacted on mobile phone. On the asking of the Bench, he denies the receipt of

..2..

information. Then he is apprised of the contents of letter of PIO Municipal Council, Sri Muktsar Sahib and is

apprised that a copy of the same will be sent to him along with the order also.

5. The Bench, on perusal of the contents of letter received from the PIO, is convinced that the

requisite information stands supplied to the appellant.

6. In view of the above, the Bench does not feel need for further intervention in the matter. The

instant appeal case is disposed off and closed. Copies of the orders be sent to the concerned parties.

Sd/-

Chandigarh 22.06.2022

(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma, (Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Encl: Letter dated 20.06.2022.