

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864111, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com,

Email: psic21@punjabmail.gov.in



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

Jaskirat kaur, Nodal Officer (for the Respondent) 98141-78444

Manjeet Kaur, APIO-Cum-Sr. Assistant (for the Respondent) 98887-38252

Sarwang, Superintendent (for the Respondent) 99888-01961

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on 5.9.19, 11.10.19, and 20.11.19)

1. The RTI application is dated **1.5.19** vide which the appellant has sought **information 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 **20.11.19**.

2. The appellant is absent but has informed the Commission in an e-mail that he has received the information and satisfied with it.

3. At the last hearing on 20.11.19 a penalty of Rs. 5,000/- was imposed on Jaskirat Kaur, Assistant Director in the office of the Director Public Instruction (Secondary Education) Punjab, Mohali. Jaskirat Kaur was named / identified as the PIO when queries were made to the DPI (SE) office prior to the order of 20.11.19. The penalty was imposed after the respondent PIO failed to respond to this Commission's notice of 16.8.19 and remained absent without intimation at three successive hearings of this appeal case. He/she also failed to respond to the Show Cause notice issued by this Bench on 11.10.19

3. Present at today's hearing, Jaskirat Kaur, assistant director has submitted a letter addressed to this Commission from the Director Public Instruction (Secondary Education). It is contended in the aforesaid letter dated 21.1.2020 that Jaskirat Kaur, assistant director, has been designated as the "Nodal Officer in the RTI Cell" in the office of the DPI (SE) at Mohali. The letter also sought to apprise this Commission that the PIO responsible for the delay in furnishing the information requested by the appellant, is Karamjit Singh, assistant director-cum-PIO of the Principal Cadre Services-3 Branch.

Contd. ...2

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864111, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com,

Email: psic21@punjabmail.gov.in



Appeal Case No. 2779 of 2019

4. A perusal of the case file, however reveals that concerned officers (PIOs) at the office of the DPI (SE) made no attempt to respond to the appellant's RTI application from when it was submitted on 1.5.19 to 11.10.19, when only partial information was furnished, that too, nearly two months after this Commission first issued Notice. The remaining information was given to the appellant on 7.1.2020. So, in effect, the appellant was given the information he requested after a delay of more than eight months. It is also notable here that the First Appeal filed to the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on 1.6.19, was completely ignored.

5. At today's hearing, Jaskirat Kaur, assistant director, contended that the RTI application was duly sent to PIOs of the concerned branches in the office of the DPI (SE) within days of when it was received on 1.5.19. Also present at this hearing, a representative of the PIO, Principal Cadre Services-3 branch, Sarwang, superintendent, however challenged Jaskirat Kaur's claim and insisted that the RTI application was only received by her office in December 2019.

6. The conflicting contentions by officers from the office of the DPI (SE), clearly point to a failure of this public authority in putting in place a system to respond to information requests within timeframes stipulated in the RTI Act, 2005. This has distressingly resulted in entirely avoidable harassment to the appellant.

7. Proceeding from the above mentioned facts, this Commission deems it fit to award a Compensation of Rs. 5,000.00 to the appellant. This is to be paid by the public authority, in this instance, the office of the Director Public Instruction (Secondary Education), Punjab, through a crossed cheque in favor of the appellant. The penalty imposed on Jaskirat Kaur, assistant director, is herewith withdrawn and set aside in view of the fresh fact that she is designated as the Nodal Officer of the RTI Cell in the office of the DPI (SE), and is not the PIO.

8. It is also recommended that the Director Public Instruction (Secondary Education) conduct a time-bound, fact-finding inquiry and fix responsibility for the inordinate delay in addressing this RTI application (as enumerated in paragraphs 4 and 5 of this Order). The findings of such inquiry to be communicated to this Commission at the earliest.

9. Next hearing on 18.3.2020 at 11.00 am.

Sd/-

(ASIT JOLLY)

State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh

22.1.2020

CC: Director Public Instruction (Secondary), Punjab, Mohali, for information and necessary action.

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864111, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com,

Email: psic21@punjabmail.gov.in



Ravinder Kataria,

64, New Sant Fateh Singh Nagar,

Dugri Road, Ludhiana.

Versus

Public Information Officer,

o/o Secretary, Regional Transport Authority (RTA),

Sangrur.

First Appellate Authority,

o/o State Transport Commissioner,

Punjab, Chandigarh.

Appeal Case No. 2798 of 2019

PRESENT:

Ravinder Kataria (Appellant) 94631-33590

Gurcharan Singh Sandhu, PIO-Cum-ATO (Respondent) 98140-69272

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on 3.10.19, 29.11.19, and 20.12.19)

1. The RTI application is dated **6.5.19** vide which the appellant has sought **information pertaining to the issue and renewal of commercial driving licenses 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 **1.8.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The case was last heard on **20.12.19**.

2. Both parties are present. The respondent PIO-cum-ATO, Gurcharan Singh Sandhu, has submitted a copy of the information that was mailed to the appellant on 20.1.2020. The appellant, also present at this hearing, has confirmed that he has received the information and is satisfied with it.

3. There is no further cause for action and this appeal case is herewith **CLOSED**.

Sd/-

(ASIT JOLLY)

State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh

22.1.2020

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864111, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com,

Email: psic21@punjabmail.gov.in



Ravinder Kataria,

64, New Sant Fateh Singh Nagar,

Dugri Road, Ludhiana.

Versus

Public Information Officer,

o/o Secretary,

Regional Transport Authority (RTA), Patiala.

First Appellate Authority,

o/o State Transport Commissioner Punjab, Chandigarh.

Appeal Case No. 2800 of 2019

PRESENT:

Ravinder Kataria (Appellant) 94631-33590

Sham Lal, PIO-Cum-ATO (Respondent) 99142-23294

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on 3.10.19, 29.11.19, and 20.12.19)

1. The RTI application is dated **6.5.19** vide which the appellant has sought **information pertaining to the renewal of commercial licenses etc.**, as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **11.6.19**, and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **1.8.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The case was last heard on **20.12.19**.

2. Both parties are present. The respondent PIO-Cum-ATO, Sham Lal, stated that the remaining information pertaining to the point no. 2 of the RTI application, was mailed to the appellant on 21.1.2020. The appellant, also present in the court today, has confirmed that he has received the information and satisfied with it.

3. There is no further cause for action and this appeal case is herewith **CLOSED**.

Sd/-

(ASIT JOLLY)

State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh

22.1.2020

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864111, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com,

Email: psic21@punjabmail.gov.in



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),

Punjab Police Headquarters, Sector-9 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) 98887-16705

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

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on 20.12.19)

1. The RTI application is dated **28.06.19** vide which the appellant has sought **information 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. The case was last heard on **20.11.19**.

2. Both parties are present. The respondent PIO represented by Head Constable, Purshotam Kumar, has failed to comply with the directions of this Commission, issued vide its Order on 20.11.19. In the interim, the respondent PIO submitted yet another letter on 14.1.2020 seeking exemption under Section 8(1)(e) of the RTI Act.

3. This Commission is of the view that such exemption cannot be granted in this case, as there cannot be any fiduciary relationship between an applicant and a public authority, where the said applicant is seeking employment. The Order of 20.11.19 stands. The respondent PIO must positively comply and furnish the requested information to the appellant before the next date of hearing.

4. **Next hearing on 20.2.2020 at 11.00 am.**

Sd/-

(ASIT JOLLY)

State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh

22.1.2020

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864111, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com,

Email: psic21@punjabmail.gov.in



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

Ravinder Kumar, Inspector (for the respondent) 98150-18161

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on 20.12.19)

1. The RTI application is dated **8.5.19** vide which the appellant has sought **information 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. The case was last heard on **20.11.19**.

2. Both parties are present. The respondent PIO, represented at this hearing by Ravinder Kumar, handed over the requested information. However, the appellant has pointed out a number of deficiencies.

3. The respondent PIO is directed to arrange for the appellant to inspect the record pertaining to this RTI application on 11.1.2020 at 11.00 a.m. and supply attested copies of the documents/information sought by the appellant. Both parties must apprise the Commission when this is done.

4. **Next hearing on 18.3.2020 at 11.00 am.**

Sd/-

(ASIT JOLLY)

State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh
22.1.2020

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864111, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com,

Email: psic21@punjabmail.gov.in



Harmanbir Singh Gill

Regional Passport Officer,

SCO No. 42-51, Pocket-1,

Near Bust Stand,

Jalandhar.

Versus

Public Information Officer,

o/o Home Secretary,

Home-1 Branch, Home Affairs & Justice Department,

Punjab, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority,

o/o Home Secretary,

Home-1 Branch, Home Affairs & Justice Department,

Punjab, Chandigarh.

Appeal Case No. 4142 of 2019

PRESENT:

Shiv Kumar Sonik (for the Appellant) 94173-04034

Harmeet Singh, Senior Assistant (for the Respondent) 99886-76430

ORDER:

1. The RTI application is dated **10.7.19** vide which the appellant has sought information 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 **5.11.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Notice was issued to the parties for first hearing in the Commission on **22.1.2020**.

2. Both parties are present. The appellant, represented by his lawyer Shiv Kumar Sonik, has stated that he has received the requested information just prior to this hearing. However, the copies provided have not been attested.

3. The respondent PIO represented by Senior Assistant, Harmeet Singh, has assured this Commission that he will have the copies attested today itself. The appellant is requested to inform this Commission as and when this is done.

4. **Next hearing on 18.3.2020 at 11.00 am.**

Sd/-

(ASIT JOLLY)

State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh

22.1.2020

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864111, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com,

Email: psic21@punjabmail.gov.in



Satinderpal Singh Dhaliwal, Advocate,
501, Sector-63, Phase-9,
Mohali.

Versus

Public Information Officer,
o/o Senior Superintendent of Police (Rural),
Jagraon, District Ludhiana.
First Appellate Authority,
o/o Deputy Inspector General of Police,
Ludhiana Range, Ludhiana.
Appeal Case No. 4143 of 2019

PRESENT:

(Appellant) Absent

Harpreet Singh, ASI (for the Respondent) 977980-03151

ORDER:

1. The RTI application is dated **29.7.19** vide which the appellant has sought **information regarding a complaint submitted by Jagroop Singh s/o Amrik Singh against his wife Jasmeen**, as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **31.8.19** and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **5.11.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Notice was issued to the parties for first hearing in the Commission on **22.1.2020**.

2. The appellant is absent without intimation. The respondent PIO, represented by ASI Harpreet Singh, submitted a reply stating that the complaint referred to in this RTI application is still under investigation with DSP (Raikot), under which circumstances, the information cannot be given. He has also stated that the subject matter of the information pertains to a third party, who has refused to allow disclosure of the information sought by this appellant.

3. There is no further cause for action in this appeal case, which would ordinarily have been closed. However, since this is the first hearing and appellant is absent, this Commission grants the appellant one more opportunity to be heard in person.

4. **Next hearing on 18.3.2020 at 11.00 am.**

Sd/-

(ASIT JOLLY)

State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh
22.1.2020

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864111, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com,

Email: psic21@punjabmail.gov.in



Dinesh Kumar Gupta,

71, Sector- 20 D,

P.O: Mandi Gobindgarh – 147 301

Versus

Public Information Officer,

o/o Senior Superintendent of Police,

Fatehgarh Sahib,

First Appellate Authority,

o/o Inspector General of Police Roopnagar Range,

Roopnagar.

Appeal Case No. 4224 of 2019

PRESENT:

Dinesh Kumar Gupta (Appellant) 98141-51789

Jagmohan Data (advocate for the appellant)

Ranjit Singh, ASI (for the Respondent) 83608-34611

ORDER:

1. The RTI application is dated **23.7.19** vide which the appellant has sought information 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 **14.11.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Notice was issued to the parties for first hearing in the Commission on **22.1.2020**.

2. Both parties are present. The appellant is represented by his lawyer Jagmohan Data. The respondent PIO, represented by ASI Ranjit Singh, stated that some of the information requested has been supplied to the appellant. However, the rest of the information sought by the appellant in this RTI application is part of a case file that has been submitted to court, and this information can only be retrieved from the court.

3. However, the appellant's counsel pointed out that the information requested at points 1 and 2 of the RTI application ought to still be available with the public authority, in this instance, the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Fatehgarh Sahib. Following this, the respondent agreed to make a fresh effort to search for the documents pertaining to the information sought at point no. 1 and 2 of the RTI application before the next hearing.

4. **Next hearing on 18.3.2020 at 11.00 am.**

Sd/-

(ASIT JOLLY)

State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh

22.1.2020

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864111, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com,

Email: psic21@punjabmail.gov.in



Dinesh Kumar Gupta,
71, Sector- 20 D,
P.O: Mandi Gobindgarh-147301

Versus

Public Information Officer,
o/o Senior Superintendent of Police,
Fatehgarh Sahib,
First Appellate Authority,
o/o Inspector General of Police Roopnagar Range,
Roopnagar.

Appeal Case No. 4234 of 2019

PRESENT:

Dinesh Kumar Gupta (Appellant) 98141-51789

Ranjit Singh, ASI (for the Respondent) 83608-34611

ORDER:

1. The RTI application is dated **31.7.19** vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **12.9.19** and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **14.11.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Notice was issued to the parties for first hearing in the Commission on **22.1.2020**.

2. Both parties are present. The respondent PIO, represented by ASI Ranjit Singh, provided part of the information and has sought exemption from disclosing the rest of the information requested by the appellant under Section 8(1)(h) of the RTI Act. He contended that revealing the General Diary Details of police officials could compromise / impede other, ongoing investigations.

3. However, after discussion with appellant at this hearing, the respondent has agreed to furnish copies of the GDR pertaining to Sub Inspector Harpreet Singh for 31.3.19 and 1.4.19. The respondent PIO is also directed to bring the original attendance register pertaining to the dates mentioned in RTI application to the next hearing.

3. **Next hearing on 18.3.2020 at 11.00 am.**

Sd/-
(ASIT JOLLY)
State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh
22.1.2020

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864111, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com,

Email: psic21@punjabmail.gov.in



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 – 152 122,
Tehsil & District- Fazilka.

Complaint Case No. 837 of 2019

PRESENT:

(Complainant) Absent

(Respondent) Absent

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on 20.11.19)

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**. The case was last heard on **20.11.19**.

2. The appellant is absent without any intimation to the Commission. The respondent PIO, Brig. Harsh Vir Singh (retd.) was present in person at the last hearing on 20.11.19 and had 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 had also explained the delay in furnishing the information as a consequence of the fact that the complainant had incorrectly addressed his RTI application to the Guardians of Governance representative at Fazilka, while the PIO is based at Chandigarh.

3. At the last hearing the complainant was absent and this Commission had granted him one more opportunity to be heard in person at today's hearing. He has failed to avail of the opportunity. The Commission is of the view that this RTI request has been adequately addressed.

4. There is no further cause for action and this complaint case is herewith **CLOSED**.

Sd/-

(ASIT JOLLY)

State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh

22.1.2020

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864111, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com,

Email: psic21@punjabmail.gov.in



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

(Respondent) Absent

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on 20.11.19)

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**. The case was last heard on **20.11.19**.

2. The appellant is absent without any intimation to the Commission. The respondent PIO, Brig. Harsh Vir Singh (retd.) was present in person at the last hearing on 20.11.19 and had 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 had also explained the delay in furnishing the information as a consequence of the fact that the complainant had incorrectly addressed his RTI application to the Guardians of Governance representative at Fazilka, while the PIO is based at Chandigarh.

3. At the last hearing the complainant was absent and this Commission had granted him one more opportunity to be heard in person at today's hearing. He has failed to avail of the opportunity. The Commission is of the view that this RTI request has been adequately addressed.

4. There is no further cause for action and this complaint case is herewith **CLOSED**.

Sd/-

(ASIT JOLLY)

State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh

22.1.2020

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864111, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com,

Email: psic21@punjabmail.gov.in



REGISTERED

Sitara Singh,
S/o Bir Singh,
Village Chak Aul (Lal Wala),
Tehsil Ajnala,
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:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on 20.11.19)

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**. The case was last heard on **20.11.19**.
2. Both parties are absent. While the appellant has informed the Commission of his inability to attend this hearing, The respondent PIO is absent without any intimation for the second time in succession. This Commission takes a very serious view of the PIO's conduct in first, ignoring the RTI application filed on 27.7.19, and then subsequently failing to respond to the Commission's Notice of 21.10.19 and Order of 20.11.19.
3. The respondent PIO is herewith ordered to **SHOW CAUSE** as to why a penalty should not be imposed upon him under Section 20(1) of RTI Act, 2005, for causing willful delay/denial of the information requested by the appellant as far back as on **22.7.19**.

In addition to the written reply, the respondent PIO is also given an opportunity under Section 20 (1) proviso there to, 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*.

Contd. ...2

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864111, Visit us @ www.infocommpunjab.com,

Email: psic21@punjabmail.gov.in



Complaint Case No. 840 of 2019

4. Next hearing on 18.3.2020 at 11.00 am.

Sd/-

(ASIT JOLLY)

State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh

22.1.2020