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Sh. Ankur Suri, #2709-B, Sector 70, Mohali.

... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Punjab State Small Industries And Export Corporation, Udyog Bhawan, Sector 167, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Punjab State Small Industries And Export Corporation, Udyog Bhawan, Sector 167, Chandigarh.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No.2588 of 2022

PRESENT: Sh.Ankur Suri as the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 16.09.2021 has sought a copy of the proceedings on the file from Jan.2019 till date – a copy of all completion certificates issued to Uneecops for successful completion of any phase or all the estate management system as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation, Chandigarh. The appellant was not provided with the information after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 21.10.2021, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case has come up for **hearing today before this Bench** through video conferencing at DAC Fazilka. The appellant claims that the information provided by the PIO is incomplete since the PIO supplied the information only on point 1 (till Aug.2019) and has denied the information on point 2.

The appellant further informed that the notices communicating the dates for a personal hearing before the First Appellate Authority were received after the date of the hearing. As evidence, the appellant has also submitted copies of the 'track software' of the postal department, which has been taken on record.

The respondent is absent nor represented.

Having gone through the RTI application and the reply of the PIO, the Commission finds that the PIO has supplied incomplete information on point 1 and wrongfully denied the information on point 2 since the completion certificate (which is issued to a company after the assigned project is completed) does not contain any intellectual property right, nor is private and is a public document.

Appeal Case No.2588 of 2022

Order-

Part -A The PIO is directed to bring the complete file regarding the information relating to point 1 to the Commission at the next date of hearing, alongwith an affidavit that the record that has been brought to the Commission is complete and no other record is available.

The PIO is directed to provide complete information regarding point-2.

Part-B

The Commission further observes that the First Appellate Authority has given the date of the personal hearing on 20.01.2022 and issued the letter for the same only on 19.01.2022, one day before. The letter as per the record reached the appellant on 22.01.2022, a day later than the scheduled hearing.

A similar occurrence has happened at the second instance as well. As per the presented record, a date for the second personal hearing was granted on 22.09.2022 whereas the letter was issued only on 19.09.2022, which reached the appellant on 23.09.2022.

There is prima-facie evidence that the information is being stalled at the higher level than the current PIO and the PIO is merely following the instructions of the higher authority.

I am invoking section 5(5) of the RTI Act by making the First Appellate Authority as the deemed PIO in this case and all liabilities and action shall be on the deemed PIO. Section 5 (5) reads the following -Any officer, whose assistance has been sought under sub-section (4), shall render all assistance to the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, seeking his or her assistance and for the purposes of any contravention of the provisions of this Act, such other officer shall be treated as a Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be.

To come up for further hearing on **07.02.2023** at 11.00 through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Fazilka. The PIO to appear at Chandigarh.

Chandigarh Dated: 22.11.2022 Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner

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Sh. Gurpreet Singh Gill, Advocate, Chamber No.227-A, District Courts, Amritsar.

... Appellant

Public Information Officer, O/o The District Mining Officer, Amritsar

First Appellate Authority
O/o The Director,
Directorate Mining,
Sector 18, Madhya Marg,

...Respondent

Appeal Case No.2684 of 2022

Versus

PRESENT: None for the Appellant None for the Respondent

ORDER:

Chandigarh

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 21.01.2022 has sought information on 08 points regarding details of sand mines being auctioned from 01.01.2021 to 20.12.2021 – a copy of the order for allotment of sand pits from the year 2015 to 20.12.2021 – terms and conditions of the auction – inspection report of the mining officers –names of contractors as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of District Mining Officer, Amritsar. The appellant was not provided with the information after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 28.03.2022, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case has come up for **hearing today before this Bench** through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. Both parties are absent.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **27.02.2023** at 11.00 through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar.

Chandigarh Dated: 22.11.2022 Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner

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Sh. Jasbir Singh Guru Nanak Nagar, Village Bholapur-Jhabewal, PO: Ramgarh, District Ludhiana

... Appellant

Public Information Officer, O/o The Civil Surgeon,

Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority

O/o The Civil Surgeon, Ludhiana.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 2698 of 2022

Versus

PRESENT: None for the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 28.03.2022 has sought information regarding samples collected for alcohol from Jan. 2021 – a copy of the register containing the entry of samples – copies of receipts issued for payment of samples – number of licenses issued to wine/alcohol contractors as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of Civil Surgeon, Ludhiana. The appellant was not provided with the information after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 28.04.2022, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case has come up for **hearing today before this Bench** through video conferencing at DAC Ludhiana. Both parties are absent.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **27.02.2023** at 11.00 through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana.

Sd/Chandigarh (Khushwant Singh)
Dated: 22.11.2022 State Information Commissioner

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Sh. Jasbir Singh Guru Nanak Nagar, Village Bholapur-Jhabewal, PO: Ramgarh, District Ludhiana

... Appellant

Public Information Officer, O/o The Civil Surgeon,

Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority O/o The Civil Surgeon, Ludhiana.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 2699 of 2022

PRESENT: None for the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 28.03.2022, has sought information regarding samples under the jurisdiction of Sh.Tarun Bansal, Smt.Rashu Mahajan & MsVidya Jot Kaur – samples collected from Jan. 2022 alongwith name of officer – samples failed/passed - copies of receipts issued for payment of samples – improvement notices issued – details of awareness camps organised as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of Civil Surgeon, Ludhiana. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 28.04.2022, which did not decide on the appeal.

Versus

The case has come up for **hearing today before this Bench** through video conferencing at DAC Ludhiana. Both parties are absent.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **27.02.2023** at 11.00 through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana.

Chandigarh Dated: 22.11.2022 Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner

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Sh. Sandeep Kumar S/o Sh. Trilok Chand VPO Sukhaar, Tehsil Nurpur, Distt. Kangra (HP)

... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o The Mehla Thana Division-D, Lahori Gate, Amritsar (Punjab)

First Appellate AuthorityO/o The Commissioner of Police,
Amritsar.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No.2252 of 2022

PRESENT: Sh.Sandeep Kumar as the Appellant'

Sh.Surinder Singh, ASI and Sh.Satbir Singh, ASI for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 14.03.2022, has sought information regarding action taken on the complaint dated 23.11.2020 as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of Mahila Thana Division-D, Lahori gate, Amritsar. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 20.04.2022, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. The respondent present pleaded that the matter relates to FIR No.17 dated 18.03.2021 u/s 406,498-A, Police Station Women Amritsar, and as per their report, an enquiry was conducted, and it was found that the complaint has no merit.

Moreover, a challan has been filed in court and the complaint of the appellant and the enquiry report is attached with the challan filed in the court.

The appellant claims that his complaint and enquiry report are not in the court file.

Hearing both parties, the PIO is directed to file an affidavit that the information is not available in the police file, which is usually has three carbon copies The respondent is also directed to bring the complete record file relating to this RTI application to the Commission on the next date of hearing at Chandigarh

To come up for further hearing on **21.12.2022** at 11.00 at Chandigarh.

Sd/Chandigarh (Khushwant Singh)
Dated: 22.11.2022 State Information Commissioner

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Sh. Kuldip Kumar, # 3261, Ratan Singh Chowk, Fatehgarh Churian Road, Amritsar-143001.

... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o The Director Health Services, Punjab, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh

First Appellate Authority

O/o The Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Health & Family Welfare Punjab, Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh

...Respondent

Appeal Case No.1611 of 2022

PRESENT: Sh.Kuldip Kumar as the Appellant

Sh.Surinder Singh, ASI O/o DCP Amritsar, Sh.Jagtar Singh, Sr Asstt. and

Sh.Raghav Gupta-PIO O/o Civil Surgeon, Amritsar for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 19.04.2021 has sought information on 07 points regarding action taken in response to FIR No.18 dated 23.06.2020 lodged by Raj Kumar Khullar in which police booked six persons including doctors and Pawan Arora owner of EMC Hospital Amritsar for malpractices alongwith details of action taken – the circumstances under which Apollo Hospital Amritsar refused to admit Dr.Anum Khullar (who was pregnant) when she was declared COVID negative by Govt Medical College/action taken against Apollo Hospital – the details of total persons admitted in EMC hospital from March 2020 to March 2021 alongwith name of the diagnostic centre as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of Director Health Services, Pb Chandigarh.

The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 13.09.2021, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case last came up for hearing on 17.10.2022 through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. The respondent present from the office of Civil Surgeon, Amritsar, informed that since the matter relates to Special Investigation Team(SIT) and the information was to be collected from the said Committee, the RTI application was transferred to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Amritsar City on 17.12.2021 with a copy to the appellant.

The respondent further informed that since the information does not relate to their office, the appellant was given an opportunity of hearing on 15.12.2021 and again on 04.01.2022. On 04.01.2022, the appellant appeared, and it was clarified that the matter does not relate to their office and the RTI application has been transferred to DCP-City Amritsar.

Hearing both the parties, the PIO-O/o Deputy Commissioner of Police, Amritsar City was impleaded in the case and directed to look at the RTI application transferred by the office of SP-Police (Vigilance Bureau) Pb Amritsar Range Amritsar on 31.07.2021 and provide the sought information as per record.

Appeal Case No.1611 of 2022

The PIO-DHS, Pb Chandigarh and Dr.Raghav Gupta, PIO-cum-Civil Surgeon, Amritsar as well as PIO-DCP, Amritsar City were also directed to be present on the next date of the hearing.

Hearing dated 22.11.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. The respondent present from the office of DCP Amritsar informed that the matter relates to case No.18 dated 23.09.2020 and the RTI application of the appellant was received from the office of Civil Surgeon, Amritsar on 30.07.2021 and since the matter was under investigation, the information was not provided, and the reply was sent to the appellant vide letter dated 06.09.2021. The respondent further informed that the investigation is still pending, and the information cannot be provided.

As per the appellant, the Director of Health & Family Welfare, Pb Chandigarh, had asked the Civil Surgeon, Amritsar, to take necessary action.

The PIO- O/o Director of Health Service, Pb Chandigarh, is absent. The respondent present from the office of DHS is not aware of the case.

The PIO-Director Health Services, Punjab, Chandigarh, is directed to appear personally on the next date of hearing to plead the case.

To come up for hearing on **10.01.2023** at 11.00 AM through video conference facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar. The PIO-DHS to appear at Chandigarh.

Chandigarh Dated: 22.11.2022

Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner

Cc to: 1. PIO-Deputy Commissioner of Police, Amritsar City.

2. Dr.Raghav Gupta, PIO-Civil Surgeon, Amritsar.

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Sh Avtar Singh, S/o Lt Sh Diwan Singh, VPO Khokhar Faujian, Tehsil Batala, Distt Gurdaspur.



... Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o AFSO, Batala, Distt Gurdaspur.

...Respondent

Complaint Case No. 402 of 2021

PRESENT: Sh.Avtar Singh as the Complainant

Sh.Managalpreet Singh Inspector the Respondent

ORDER:

The complainant, through an RTI application dated 07.12.2020 has sought information regarding the list of beneficiaries for distributing wheat @Rs.2/- per kg – eligible persons to avail benefits on a single card – order of the Govt for depot holders to distribute wheat at the residence of the sarpanch of the village – order/circular of the Govt to retain the bills by depot holder issued through e-POS and other information as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of AFSO Batala. The complainant was not provided with the information provided, after which the complainant filed a complaint in the Commission on 31.03.2021.

The case came up for hearing first on 15.09.2022 through video conferencing at DAC Gurdaspur. As per the respondent, the information had been supplied to the complainant on 18.08.2021.

As per the complainant, the information was incomplete and was provided with a delay of more than eight months. Since this is a complainant case and the complainant had come to the Commission without going to the First Appellate Authority, it was ordered that if the complainant is not satisfied with the provided information, he should go to the First Appellate Authority.

However, there has been an enormous delay of more than eight months in attending to the RTI application, a show cause was issued to the PIO why penalty should not be imposed under Section 20 of the RTI Act 2005 for not supplying the information within the statutorily prescribed time and directed to file reply on an affidavit.

On the date of the last hearing on 28.07.2022, the complainant informed that the information supplied by the respondent is incomplete.

The respondent-PIO was neither present for the hearing nor had filed a reply to the show cause notice issued during the previous hearing. Having gone through the RTI application and after going through the facts available on the record, the Commission in view of the loss and detriment suffered by the appellant during this long period in obtaining the information, awarded compensation of Rs.5000/- (Rupees five thousand only) to the complainant in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 19(8)(b) of the RTI Act, 2005, and directed to submit proof of having compensated the appellant.

The PIO, Shri Himanshu Kakkar was given the last opportunity to file a reply to the show cause notice, failing, which proceedings under section 20 of the RTI Act 2005.

Complaint Case No. 402 of 2021

Hearing dated 22.11.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Gurdaspur. The complainant informed that he has received the compensation amount, but the PIO has not supplied the complete information.

The Commission has received a reply from Shri Himanshu Kakkar, which has been taken on record. In the reply, it is mentioned that Shri Kakkar remained posted at Gurdaspur from 26.03.2020 to 31.03.2021 and again from 17.09.2021 to 05.10.2021.

That the RTI application was received in the office of DFSC Gurdaspur and the deponent directed the concerned AFSO on 18.02.2021 to take necessary action thereafter. That the deponent was transferred from Gurdaspur to Ferozepur. On 31.03.2021. It has further been mentioned in the reply that the information has already been provided to the appellant.

I have gone through the reply and find the following-

That the RTI application was filed on 07.12.2020 during the tenure of Himanshu Kakkar (26.03.2020 to 31.03.2021), and forwarded to the concerned DFSO to provide information on 18.02.2021, more than two months after receiving the RTI application.

That the RTI application was merely forwarded and not transferred under section 5(5) of the RTI Act (Any officer, whose assistance has been sought under sub-section (4), shall render all assistance to the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, seeking his or her assistance and for the purposes of any contravention of the provisions of this Act, such other officer shall be treated as a Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be), which alludes that the responsibility lay on the PIO and not the AFSO to provide the information.

That the information was sent to the complainant only on 18.08.2021.

Since the responsibility to ensure the timely transmission of the information (within thirty days) lies on the PIO, the violation under Section 7 has occurred at the end of Sh.Himanshu Kukkar, who was the PIO, when the RTI application was filed (now transferred and posted at Fazilka). Thereby he is 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.

Hence, given the above facts a penalty of **Rs.10,000/-** is imposed on the Sh.Himanshu Kukkar, PIO-cum-DFSC Gurdaspur (now posted at Fazilka), which will be deposited in the Govt. Treasury. The PIO is directed to duly inform the Commission about the compliance of the orders by producing a copy of the challan as evidence of depositing the penalty in the Govt Treasury.

The case is adjourned. To come up for compliance on **11.01.2023 at 11.00 AM** through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur.

Chandigarh Dated: 22.11.2022 Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner

Copy to:

Sh Himanshu Kukkar, Public Information Officer, O/o the DFSC, Gurdaspur. Now posted at Fazilka.

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Sh. Narinder Sharma, (9815263774) R/o 3185/25, KotMahna Singh, TaranTaran Road, Amritsar.

...Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority
O/o The Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

...Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 1711 OF 2021

PRESENT: Sh.Narinder Sharma as the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 28.12.2020 has sought a copy of the agreement between the Association of the locality and MCA relating to installation of gates on a public street by theresidents of the society, which is as enumerated in the RTI application. The appellant was not satisfied with the reply of the PIO dated 09.03.2021 after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the first appellate authority on 29.01.2021, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case was first heard by Sh.HemInder Singh State Information Commissioner on 27.07.2021. The respondent present informed that the information has been supplied to the appellant on 09.03.2021.

The appellant orally denied having received the information. The PIO was directed to supply the information to the appellant and if no information is available, to file a proper affidavit in this regard. On the date of the next hearing on 30.09.2021, the appellant informed that the PIO has not supplied the information. The respondent was absent.

On the date of hearing on 28.10.2021, the respondent was absent nor had supplied the information as directed by the commission. The PIO was issued a **show-cause notice under section 20** of the RTI Act and directed to file a reply on an affidavit.

The case came up for hearing **before this Bench on 05.07.2022** through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. As per the appellant, the PIO had not supplied the information.

The respondent was absent for 3rd consecutive hearing nor has filed a reply to the show-cause notice as well as not supplied the information. The case was marked to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Amritsar with the direction to reconcile the case and ensure that the PIO appears before the commission before the next date of hearing.

Further, the Commission was of the view that since the complainant had to suffer undue inconvenience to get the information, in exercising the powers conferred u/s 19(8)(b) of the RTI Act., the PIO- Municipal Corporation, Amritsar was directed to pay an amount of **Rs.5000/-** via demand draft through Govt. Treasury as compensation to the appellant and submit proof of having compensated the appellant.

APPEAL CASE NO. 1711 OF 2021

The PIO was also directed to inform the details of PIOs(Name of PIO – Period of stay – Present posting) from the date of filing of RTI application and at the time of issue of show cause notice.

Hearing dated 22.11.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. The appellant claims that the PIO has neither provided the information nor paid the compensation.

The respondent is continuously absent on the 4th consecutive hearing nor has complied with the order of the Commission to provide the information as well as not filed the reply to the show cause notice. As per information from the office of MC Amritsar, Sh. Meharban Singh, MTP is the PIO in this case.

Keeping the above-mentioned facts of the case, it is clear that the PIO-cum-MTP O/o MC Amritsar is flouting the spirit of the RTI Act continuously. The PIO has not only shown utter disregard for the Commission's repeated orders to provide the information but has shown willful stubbornness in not appearing before the commission despite various orders of the Commission.

To secure an erring PIO"s presence before the commission, the Information Commission is empowered to issue warrants to the PIO Under Section 18(3) of the RTI Act. A bailable Warrant of Sh.Meharban Singh, PIO-cum-MTP, O/o MC Amritsar is hereby issued through Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar for his presence before the Commission on 24.01.2023.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **24.01.2023** at **11.00** AM at Chandigarh.

Sd/Chandigarh (Khushwant Singh)
Dated: 22.11.2022 State Information Commissioner

CC to: The Commissioner,

Municipal Corporation Amritsar

BAILABLE WARRANT OF PRODUCTION

BEFORE

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH

STATE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER, PUNJAB AT CHANDIGARH

In case: Narinder Sharma V/s Municipal Corporation, Amritsar

APPEAL CASE NO.1711/2021

UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

Next Date of Hearing: 24.01.2023

To

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar

Whereas Sh.Meharban Singh, PIO-cum-MTP O/o Municipal Commissioner, Amritsar a has failed to appear before the State Information Commissioner, Punjab despite the issuance of notice/summon in the above mentioned appeal case. Therefore, you are hereby directed to serve this bailable warrant to the Sh.Meharban Singh, PIO-cum-MTP O/o Municipal Commissioner, Amritsar to appear before the undersigned at Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden, Sector 16,Chandigarhon 24.01.2023 at 11.00A.M.

Chandigarh Dated: 22.11.2022 Sd/(Khushwant Singh)
State InformationCommissioner

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S. Sukhwinder Singh Grewal, S/o S. Kulwant Singh Grewal Vill. Khwaj Ke, Post Office Basti Jodhewal, Rahon Road, Tehsil & Distt. Ludhiana

... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o The Secretaty, SGPC, Amritsar

First Appellate Authority
O/o The Secretaty,
SGPC, Amritsar

...Respondent

Appeal Case No.2570 of 2022

Present None for the complainant

Sh.Simarjit Singh, PIO for the respondent

Order

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 19.02.2021 has sought 3-point information regarding the total number of "akhand path sahibs" disrupted under SGPC section 85 and 87-a copy of the action taken against the culprits- the names and designations of persons who disrupted the "akhand path sahibs" and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of the Secretary, SGPC, Amritsar. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed the first appeal before the first appellate authority on 04.08.2021 which took no decision on the appeal. After which the appellant filed 2nd appeal in the Commission.

The case was heard yesterday on 21.11.2022. Both parties were present in Chandigarh.

The advocate present on behalf of the appellant claimed that the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent present was not able to respond adequately about this. The PIO was directed to appear personally on 22.11.2022 9 to plead the case.

Hearing dated 22.11.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today.

The appellant is absent nor represented.

The Case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **27.02.2023 at 11.00 AM through video** conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner Ludhiana. The PIO to appear through VC at DAC Amritsar.

Sd/Chandigarh (Khushwant Singh)
Dated: 22.11.2022 State Information Commission