

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864101, Fax 0172-2864110 Helpline 0172-2864100

Email: psic20@punjabmail.gov.in Visit us: www.infocommpunjab.com

Whatsapp No. 62848-20189



Sh. Piara Singh (Retd. Capt.)

Village Dehar, Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak,
Gurdaspur.

.....Appellant

Vs.

Sh. Jinderpal Singh,

Public Information Officer

O/o Block Development and Panchayat Officer,
Gurdaspur.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Block Development and Panchayat Officer,
Gurdaspur.

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 2777 of 2021.

(Video Conference/Cisco Webex/Telephone Proceedings)

Present:- Sh. R.S. Bajwa, S/o Sh. Piara Singh, appellant.
Sh. Iqbal Singh Panchayat Secretary (Retd.) 9872919205 and Sh. Sukhdev Singh, Panchayat Secretary 7710411091 on behalf of the respondents.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous orders dated 3.3.2022 vide which the case was adjourned for 4.4.2022 but due to administrative reasons the case could not be heard on the said date and further adjourned for today 22.4.2022.

2. The representative of the appellant submits that he is not satisfied with the information so supplied by the respondents as the sought information pertaining to detail of panchayati land, Dehar mentioning the plot number showing muraba number and killa number and area of each plot has not been supplied. The representative of the respondents further submits that the Block Development and Panchayats Officer Sh. Jinderpal Singh is also on its way along with the record available in the office of the Block Development and Panchayats Officer.

3. But till evening neither the Block Development and Panchayats Officer Sh. Jinderpal Singh came nor any submissions have been received from him regarding show cause notice issued to him on 3.3.2022. It is also a fact that the office contacted him a day prior to the date i.e. 21.4.2022 and he assured that he will be present along with the original record pertaining to the sought information. It is also a fact that Sh. Vinod Gagat, Dy. Director, Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt., Pb. has also informed the office that Sh. Jinderpal Singh, Block Development and Panchayats Officer will be present. Even though neither he nor his representative is present on his behalf.

4. The perusal of the file shows that in this case, application for information was filed on 6.11.2020 but after a lapse of more than 15 months, incomplete information is being given to the appellant so far. It is also a fact that the compensation amounting to Rs.5000/- has already been awarded in this case on 7.12.2021 in favour of the appellant. But neither the compensation has been paid to the appellant nor the information

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Appeal Case No. 2777 of 2021

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has been supplied to the appellant. It is, thus apparent from the response of the respondent-Public Information Officer that there has been delay in providing the information. Appellant had also suffered financial loss in getting the information. There are systemic deficiencies in the manner of receiving and disposing of applications. The department still does not appear to be properly tuned to the performance of its obligations enshrined under the RTI Act.

5. I am, therefore, of the view that ends of justice would be met by enhancing the compensation amount from Rs.5000/- to Rs.25,000/- (Twenty five thousands only) to be payable by the office of the Block Development and Panchayats Officer by way of compensation to the appellant. This amount shall be payable from the State Exchequer before the next date of hearing.

6. Also a show cause notice was issued to Sh. Jatinder Singh, Block Development and Panchayats Officer on 3.3.2022 but it has been informed that Sh. Jinderpal Singh, Block Development and Panchayats Officer is posted instead. Therefore, the show cause notice issued to Sh. Jatinder Singh, Block Development and Panchayats Officer is hereby withdrawn.

7. Viewing the attitude in dealing with the RTI application of the respondent seriously, Sh. Jinderpal Singh, Public Information Officer, is, thus, 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 a maximum of Rs.25000/- 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.

In addition to the written reply, the Public Information Officer 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 a note that in case he does not file his written reply and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission will proceed ex-parte.

8. To come up on 30.5.2022 at 11.00 AM to be heard through Video Conference Facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur.

Dated:22.4.2022

sd
(Suresh Arora)

Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.

CC

Principal Secretary to Govt. of Pb.
Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt.,Pb.
Vikas Bhawan, Sector 62, Mohali

To ensure compliance of this order.

Director,
Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt.,Pb.

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Sh. Suresh Kumar Sharma (9855890233),
R/o New Sharma Furniture House,
Pratap Bazzar, Chhehartta, Amritsar.

.....Appellant

Vs.

Public Information Officer
O/o Amritsar Improvement Trust,
Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority
O/o Amritsar Improvement Trust,
Amritsar.

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5721 of 2021.

(Video Conference/Cisco Webex/Telephone Proceedings)

Present:- None on behalf of the appellant.
Sh. Ravinder pal Singh Kahlon Public Information Officer on behalf of the
respondent 9815868855.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated
04.04.2022.

2. The appellant is absent without intimation. The respondent Public Information Officer requests for the adjournment of the case and assured that the information will be supplied to the appellant within a week through registered post under intimation to the Commission.

3. During the hearing it has also ascertained that part of the sought information is available on the government website. Therefore, the directions are issued to the respondent Public Information Officer to file the specific reply point wise in which the information is available on the website mentioning the same and supply the information regarding the remaining points before the next date of hearing to the appellant under intimation to the Commission

4. To come up on 12 May 2022 at 12:30 PM to be heard through Video Conference Facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, District Amritsar.

sd

Dated:22.4.2022

(Suresh Arora)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.

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Sh. Suresh Kumar Sharma (9855890233),
R/o New Sharma Furniture House,
Pratap Bazaar, Chhehartta, Amritsar.

.....Appellant

Vs.

Public Information Officer
O/o Amritsar Improvement Trust,
Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority
O/o Amritsar Improvement Trust,
Amritsar.

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5724 of 2021.

(Video Conference/Cisco Webex/Telephone Proceedings)

Present:- None on behalf of the appellant.
Sh. Ravinder pal Singh Kahlon Public Information Officer on behalf of the
respondent 9815868855.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated
04.04.2022.

2. The appellant is absent without intimation. The respondent Public Information Officer requests for the adjournment of the case and assured that the information will be supplied to the appellant within a week through registered post under intimation to the Commission.

3. During the hearing it has also ascertained that part of the sought information is available on the government website. Therefore, the directions are issued to the respondent Public Information Officer to file the specific reply point wise in which the information is available on the website mentioning the same and supply the information regarding the remaining points before the next date of hearing to the appellant under intimation to the Commission

4. To come up on 12 May 2022 at 12:30 PM to be heard through Video Conference Facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, District Amritsar.

sd

Dated:22.4.2022

(Suresh Arora)
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Punjab.

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Sh. Suresh Kumar Sharma (9855890233),
R/o New Sharma Furniture House,
Pratap Bazaar, Chhehartta, Amritsar.

.....Appellant

Vs.

Public Information Officer
O/o Amritsar Improvement Trust,
Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority
O/o Amritsar Improvement Trust,
Amritsar.

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5723 of 2021.

(Video Conference/Cisco Webex/Telephone Proceedings)

Present:- None on behalf of the appellant.
Sh. Ravinder pal Singh Kahlon Public Information Officer on behalf of the
respondent 9815868855.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated
04.04.2022.

2. The appellant is absent without intimation. The respondent Public Information Officer requests for the adjournment of the case and assured that the information will be supplied to the appellant within a week through registered post under intimation to the Commission.

3. During the hearing it has also ascertained that part of the sought information is available on the government website. Therefore, the directions are issued to the respondent Public Information Officer to file the specific reply point wise in which the information is available on the website mentioning the same and supply the information regarding the remaining points before the next date of hearing to the appellant under intimation to the Commission

4. To come up on 12 May 2022 at 12:30 PM to be heard through Video Conference Facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, District Amritsar.

Dated:22.4.2022

sd
(Suresh Arora)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.

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Sh. Suresh Kumar Sharma (9855890233),

R/o New Sharma Furniture House,

Pratap Bazaar, Chhehartta, Amritsar.

.....Appellant

Vs.

Public Information Officer

O/o Amritsar Improvement Trust,

Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Amritsar Improvement Trust,

Amritsar.

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5705 of 2021.

(Video Conference/Cisco Webex/Telephone Proceedings)

Present:- None on behalf of the appellant.

Sh. Ravinder pal Singh Kahlon Public Information Officer on behalf of the respondent 9815868855.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 04.04.2022.

2. The appellant is absent without intimation. The respondent Public Information Officer requests for the adjournment of the case and assured that the information will be supplied to the appellant within a week through registered post under intimation to the Commission.

3. During the hearing it has also ascertained that part of the sought information is available on the government website. Therefore, the directions are issued to the respondent Public Information Officer to file the specific reply point wise in which the information is available on the website mentioning the same and supply the information regarding the remaining points before the next date of hearing to the appellant under intimation to the Commission

4. To come up on 12 May 2022 at 12:30 PM to be heard through Video Conference Facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, District Amritsar.

Dated:22.4.2022

sd

(Suresh Arora)

Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.