

**PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**  
**Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,**  
**Sector 16, Chandigarh.**  
**Ph: 0172-2864114, Email: - [psicsic30@punjabmail.gov.in](mailto:psicsic30@punjabmail.gov.in)**  
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Sh.Jatinder Kumar,  
C/o Sachkhand Mishthan Bhandar,  
Nehru Gate, Nawanshehar.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,**  
O/o Principal Secretary,  
Local Govt.Deptt, Sector-35-A,  
Chandigarh.

**First Appellate Authority,**  
O/o Principal Secretary,  
Local Govt.Deptt, Sector-35-A,  
Chandigarh

..... Respondent

**Appeal case No.1064 of 2020**

**Present: Sh.Jatinder Kumar as the Appellant**  
**Sh.Kuldeep Singh, Sr.Assistant O/o Local Govt(Establishment branch)**  
**for the Respondent**

**Order:**

The appellant through RTI application dated 22.08.2019 has sought information regarding action taken on the application dated 11.06.2019 for appointing some other officers of the rank of Retired Session Judge/Chief Vigilance Officer in place of earlier enquiry officer and other information concerning the office of Principal Secretary, Local Govt Department, Punjab, Chandigarh. The appellant was not provided the information, after which the appellant filed first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 27.11.2019 which took no decision on the appeal.

The case was last heard on 18.08.2020 through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahr. The appellant claimed that the PIO has not provided the information. The notice issued by the Commission to the PIO O/o Principal Secretary, Local Govt. Punjab was returned back with the remarks of the postal authorities "Refused by Under Secretary".

The Commission directed the Principal Secretary, Local Govt.Department, Punjab to look into the matter that why the notice of the Commission had been refused. A copy of the notice and a copy of the envelope with remarks of postal authority was attached with the order for reference. The PIO was directed to look at the RTI application and provide the information to the appellant within 15 days. The PIO was also directed to appear personally on the next date of hearing.

**Hearing dated 23.09.2020:**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahr. The respondent has brought the sought information. A copy of the information is being attached with the order for the appellant's perusal. The appellant is directed to point out the discrepancies if any to the PIO with a copy to the Commission. The PIO is directed to remove the same.

To come up for further hearing on **16.11.2020 at 11.00 AM** through the video conferencing facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, **Nawanshahr. The PIO to appear at Chandigarh.**

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated:23.09.2020**

**Sd/-**  
**(Khushwant Singh)**  
**State Information Commissioner**

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Sh. Hardeep Singh. S/o ShTarsemlal,  
R/o Village Nurpur, Block Aur,  
Tehsil Banga, Distt SBS Nagar.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,**  
O/o Punjab Pollution Control Board,  
Hoshiarpur.

**First Appellate Authority,**  
O/o Punjab Pollution Control Board,  
Jalandhar

..... Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 2700 of 2019**

**PRESENT: Sh.Hardeep Singh as the Appellant**  
**Sh.Manohar Lal Chauhan, PIO-PPCB for the Respondent**

**ORDER:**

The case was first heard on 16.12.2019. The respondent present informed that the challan books are issued to the team constituted by the District Administration and they are collecting the challan books from the team members and on receipt of the challan books, the information will be provided to the appellant. The appellant was absent. The PIO was directed to provide the information to the appellant before the next date of hearing and send a compliance report to the Commission.

The case was again heard on **21.01.2020**. The respondent present pleaded that the information is available in the custody of the Agriculture officer, Aur who is the Nodal officer of the teams constituted by the District Administration to check the sites of the stubble burning and to fine the violators accordingly. The Nodal Officer, Department of Agriculture, Punjab, Block Aur is impleaded in the case and directed to look at the RTI application and provide the information to the appellant. A copy of the RTI application is being attached with the order for the PIO-Nodal Officer, Department of Agriculture Block Aur Distt. Nawanshahar.

The Commission however observed that the Pollution Control Board has not handled the RTI application appropriately since it should have been transferred to the concerned department under section 6(3) of the RTI Act which they did not transfer. The PIO-Pollution Control Board was directed to be present personally on the next date of hearing and explain the reasons for not transferring the RTI application to the concerned department.

On the date of hearing on 23.06.2020 which was held through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahar, the respondent present from the office of Pollution Control Board pleaded that the information is in the custody of Agriculture Officer, Aur. The PIO-Pollution Control Board was directed to submit reply in writing on an affidavit for delay in transferring the RTI application to the concerned PIO.

The PIO-Department of Agriculture, Block Aur was absent nor had complied with the order of the Commission. The PIO-Nodal Officer, Department of Agriculture, Pb, Block Aur, District Nawanshahar was issued a **show cause notice under Section 20 of the RTI Act and directed to file reply on an affidavit**. The PIO was again directed to provide the information to the appellant within 10 days.

On the date of last hearing which was held on **18.08.2020** through video conferencing at DAC, Nawanshahar, the respondent present pleaded that the information has been provided to the appellant. The appellant informed that he has received the information except the information regarding point-3. The respondent informed that the photocopy of the same has been provided to the appellant and the original is with the Pollution Control Board. As per appellant, it was not legible. The PIO-Pollution Control Board was directed to provide legible copy of the information regarding point-3 to the appellant.

The respondent submitted a reply to the show cause notice which was taken on the file of the Commission. Since the reply was not from the PIO, the respondent was directed to submit a reply to the show cause notice from the PIO.

Since the PIO-Pollution Control Board was not present nor did he file a reply for delay in transferring the RTI application to the concerned PIO, the PIO was-Pollution Control Board was directed to appear personally on the next date of hearing along with the reply on an affidavit.

**Hearing dated 23.09.2020:**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahr. The PIO-Pollution Control Board is present and contended that the original record is not available with them as claimed by the agriculture department. He raised the point that since the said earlier document (which the appellant alleges is illegible) was provided by the agriculture department, it is clear that the original document is in the custody of the Agriculture department only.

As enough ping-pong has already happened in this case, the PIO Department of Agriculture, Block Aur is directed to provide a legible copy of the same copy which had been provided to the appellant on 06.07.2020. If it is in the custody of any other section , department or public authority the Block Officer may use this order to procure it from the concerned authority. This will be provided within 15 days of receipt of the order or punitive action will be initiated against the PIO.

The respondent , the Pollution Board, Hoshiarpur has submitted a reply regarding delay in transferring the RTI application to the concerned PIO which has been taken on the file. I have considered the reply and the facts of the case and thus drop the show-cause and exempt the PIO from future appearance. However should the need arise, the PIO-Pollution Board Hoshiarpur can be impleaded anytime in the future..

To come up for further hearing on **16.11.2020 at 11.00 AM** through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, **Nawanshahar**.

**Sd/-**

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated 23.09.2020**

**(Khushwant Singh)**  
**State Information Commissioner**

**CC to: Nodal Officer, Department of Agriculture, Pb**  
**Block Aur, Distt.Nawanshahar.**

Sh. Hardeep Singh, S/o ShTarsemLal,  
R/o Village Nupur, Tehsil Banga,  
Distt SBS Nagar

..... Appellant

**Vs**

**Public Information Officer,**  
O/o SE, PSPCL, Sub Division-2,  
Nawanshehar, Distt SBS Nagar.

**First Appellate Authority,**  
O/o SE, PSPCL,  
Nawanshehar, Distt SBS Nagar.

...Respondent

**Appeal Case .No. 4560 of 2019**

**PRESENT: Sh.Hardeep Singh as the Complainant**  
**Sh.Naresh Kumar, Addl. SE-Banga for the Respondent**

**ORDER:**

The case was first heard through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner Nawanshahar. The appellant claimed that the PIO has not provided the complete information and the information that has been provided was not legible. The respondent present pleaded that the available information has been provided and since the record being very old, was not traceable, the remaining information cannot be provided.

The PIO was directed to conduct an enquiry and submit a complete enquiry report which establishes that the record is missing, FIR has been lodged and suitable action has been taken as per procedure of the department against the person under whose custody the record was found missing. The PIO was also directed to provide legible and certified copies of the information to the appellant.

On the date of last hearing on **18.08.2020**, which was held through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahar, the respondent present informed that they have conducted enquiry regarding the untraceable record and have written to the higher authority for fixing the responsibility of the person under whose custody the record was found. The PIO was directed to send a complete enquiry report which establishes that the record is missing, FIR has been lodged and suitable action has been taken as per procedure of the department against the person under whose custody the record was found missing.

**Hearing dated 23.09.2020:**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahar. The respondent pleaded that complete information has been provided to the appellant. The appellant is not satisfied with the information regarding points 12 & 22.

Regarding point 12, the respondent informed that no notices were issued and regarding point-22, the electric supply was disconnected on the request of the appellant.

The PIO is directed to remove the discrepancy and reply on both the points on an affidavit.

To come up for further hearing on **16.11.2020 at 11.00 AM** through a video conferencing facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, **Nawanshahar.**

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated 23.09.2020**

**Sd/-**  
**(Khushwant Singh)**  
**State Information Commissioner**

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Sh.Ujagar Singh, S/o Sh Lt Sh.Bant Singh,  
R/o Street No-1, Mann Colony,  
Daba, Ludhiana.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,**  
O/o ADGP, (Crime),  
Police Headquarters, Chandigarh.

**First Appellate Authority,**  
O/o DGP, (Crime),  
Police Headquarter, Chandigarh

..... Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 157 of 2019**

**PRESENT:     None for the Appellant**  
**Sh.Gurjeet Singh, ASI for the Respondent**

**Order:**       This order should be read in continuation to the earlier order.

The case was earlier heard on 26.02.2019, 02.04.2019, 08.07.2019, 02.09.2019, 04.03.2020 and last on 03.08.2020.

On the date of hearing on 04.03.2020, the appellant was directed to inspect the record by fixing a mutually convenient date and time with the PIO and get the relevant information. The PIO was directed to allow inspection of the record and provide the relevant information to the appellant.

On the date of hearing on 03.08.2020, the appellant claimed that he visited the office of PIO on 02.03.2020 but the PIO was not available in the office and no information was provided.

Hearing both the parties, the commission observed that the appellant wanted the enquiry report of the enquiry conducted by DSP on his complaint dated 18.09.2018. The PIO was directed to provide an enquiry report on the action taken by the DSP Crime on the application of the appellant dated 18.09.2018. The information was to be provided within 15 days.

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing facility at DAC Ludhiana. Both the parties are absent. Earlier order stands. The case was adjourned.

**Hearing dated 23.09.2020:**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Ludhiana. As per respondent, the information has been provided. The appellant is absent and via email has informed that the PIO has not provided the information.

The respondent is directed to comply with the earlier order of the Commission which still stands and resend the information to the appellant through a registered post with a copy to the Commission.

To come up for further hearing on **17.11.2020 at 10.30 AM** through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana.

Sd/-

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated:23.09.2020**

**(Khushwant Singh)**  
**State Information Commissioner**

**CC to : PIO-DSP, Mehal Kalan(Barnala)**



Sh. Suresh Aggarwal, S/o ShPrem Chand,  
R/o H NO-2585/2-A, Jagat Nagar,  
BastiJodhwal,  
Ludhiana.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,**  
O/o Municipal Corporation,  
Zone-D, Ludhiana.

**First Appellate Authority,**  
O/o Municipal Corporation,  
Head Office, Mata Rani Chowk,  
Ludhiana

..... Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 177 of 2019**

**Present: Sh.Suresh Aggarwal as the Appellant**  
**None for the Respondent**

**ORDER:**

The case was first heard on **10.04.2019**. The respondent present from building branch Zone-A MC Ludhiana pleaded that the record relating to the information regarding points 1,3,5,6 & 7 is not available with them. The respondent present for PIO-cum-ATP Zone-D pleaded that the information regarding points 2,4 & 8 is not available with them and regarding points 3&5, the area comes under the jurisdiction of B & R Branch of Zone-B and Zone-A. Since as per the respondents, the information was available with B & R Branch of MC Ludhiana, DRO and Irrigation department, the PIO-B&R Branch of MC, Ludhiana, PIO-DRO Ludhiana and PIO-O/o Irrigation department Ludhiana were impleaded in the case and directed to look at the RTI application and provide the information concerning before the next date of hearing.

On **11.06.2019**, the appellant claimed that the information has not been provided by the PIO. The Commission received a letter on 30.04.2019 from the APIO-B&R Zone-B, MC Ludhiana stating that the information sought relates to their building branch. The respondent present from the building branch pleaded that the information concerning them has been provided and remaining information has to be provided by the PIOs of A & D Zone.

The Commission observed that the file is moving from one desk to the other and no-one knows under whose custody the information lies. The Commissioner, MC Ludhiana was directed to look at the RTI application on an urgent basis and get the information from the PIO under whose custody the information lies. After hearing both the parties, the following was concluded:

- Point-2 Partial information provided, remaining to be provided by the PIO, Zone-A, PIO- Zone-D, PIO-Drawing Branch, MC Ludhiana and PIO-Irrigation Department, Ludhiana
- 
- Point-3 Partial information provided, remaining to be provided by PIO, Zone-A, PIO- Zone-D, PIO-Drawing Branch, MC Ludhiana
- 
- Point-1 To be provided by PIO-Drawing Branch, MC Ludhiana
- Points-4,5&6 Available on website
- Point-7 To be provided by PIO-Zone-A, MC Ludhiana

## **Appeal Case No. 177 of 2019**

The PIO-Zone-A, MC Ludhiana, PIO-Zone-D, MC Ludhiana, PIO-Drawing Branch, MC Ludhiana and PIO-Irrigation Department, Ludhiana were directed to look at the RTI application and provide the information concerning them to the appellant.

The case was again heard on **06.08.2019**. The respondents present informed that they have provided the information to the appellant concerning them and remaining information relates to the building branch Zone-D and PIO-Tehbazari.

The respondent from building branch, Zone-D and PIO-Tehbazari were absent. The PIO-Zone-D, and PIO-Tehbazari, MC Ludhiana were given one last opportunity to look at the RTI application and provide the information regarding point-2 to the appellant, within 15 days and send a compliance report to the Commission. Rest of the points stand settled.

On the next date of hearing on **02.12.2019**, the respondent present pleaded that they have already provided the available information concerning them and remaining information relates to the Revenue/Irrigation department. The appellant claimed that the PIO is not providing the relevant information and using delaying tactics.

The Commission observed that since the department is dilly dallying the information, the Commission directed the Commissioner, MC Ludhiana to have a look at the entire RTI application and take adequate steps for the provision of the information. The Commissioner, MC Ludhiana was also directed to send a consolidated reply to the Commission on the matter at the next date of hearing.

On the last date of hearing on **17.02.2020**, both the parties are absent. The case was adjourned.

On the date of last hearing on **03.08.2020**, the respondents present from Zone A & D of MC Ludhiana pleaded that the information available with them regarding point-2 & 3 has already been supplied and the remaining information regarding encroachment outside & inside the Budha Nala is in the custody of Irrigation Department.

The PIO-Department of Irrigation, Ludhiana was impleaded in the case and directed to look at the RTI application, a copy of which was attached with the order and provide the information to the appellant.

### **Hearing dated 23.09.2020:**

The appellant claims that the information has not been provided by the PIO on points 2, 4, 6, 7 & 8. The respondent is absent.

At the last hearing, the PIO-Department of Irrigation, Ludhiana was impleaded in the case after it was concluded that some part of the information is in their custody. The Irrigation Dept. was directed to provide the information. The PIO-Irrigation Department is absent. The PIO-Department of Irrigation, Ludhiana is directed to provide the information and be present personally on the next date of hearing otherwise the commission will be constrained to initiate punitive action against the erring PIO.

**Appeal Case No. 177 of 2019**

A copy of the order is being sent to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana with the direction to resolve this pending RTI and ensure that whatever information is available on their record is completely provided. Regarding the points for which information does not exist the PIO is directed to provide a clear affidavit stating that no information exists.

To come up for further hearing on **17.11.2020 at 10.30 AM** through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana.

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated 23.09.2020**

Sd/-  
**(Khushwant Singh)**  
**State Information Commissioner**

**CC to:1. The Commissioner, MC Ludhiana**

- **2. PIO-Xen Drainage,**  
**Department of Irrigation, Pb,**  
**Urban Estate, Phase-I,**  
**Dugri, Ludhiana**



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Sh. Jasbir Singh,  
Village Bholapur, Jhabewal,  
P.O Ramgarh, Distt Ludhiana.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,**  
-Cum- Food Safety Officer,  
O/o Civil Surgeon, Pathankot.

**First Appellate Authority,**  
O/o Civil Surgeon, Pathankot

..... Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 778 of 2019**

**PRESENT: None for the Appellant**  
**Mrs.Kamlesh Kumari, PIO-O/o Commissioner, Food & Drug Admn. Kharar**  
**for the Respondent**

**ORDER:** This order should be read in continuation to the earlier order.

The case was earlier heard on 19.06.2019, 04.09.2019, 03.12.2019, 02.03.2020 and 03.08.2020.

On the date of hearing on **02.03.2020**, none was present on behalf of the respondents. At the hearing on 04.09.2019, the PIO-Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration was directed to reply on the implementation of section 4 and its sub-sections at all district level food safety departments.

However, the PIO was absent nor had complied with the order of the Commission. The **PIO-Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration, Kharar was issued a show cause under Section 20 of the RTI Act 2005 and** directed to file reply on an affidavit.

A copy of the order was sent to the **Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Punjab with the** direction to ensure the compliance of this order.

The PIO-Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration, Kharar and PIO-Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Punjab were directed to appear at Chandigarh.

On the date of hearing on 03.08.2020, both the respondents were absent. The case was adjourned.

The PIO-Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration, Kharar were given one more opportunity to reply to the show cause notice and appear personally at the next date of hearing.

**Hearing dated 23.09.2020:**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Ludhiana. The appellant is absent. The respondent is present at Chandigarh and informed that the information has been provided to the appellant.

**Appeal Case No. 778 of 2019**

The respondent has not brought any reply to the show cause notice. The PIO is given one last opportunity to file a reply to the show cause notice on an affidavit otherwise it will be presumed that the PIO has nothing to say in the matter and the Commission will act as per provisions of section 20 of the RTI Act.

To come up for further hearing on **17.11.2020 at 10.30 AM** through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana. The PIO-Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration, Kharar and Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare to appear at Chandigarh.

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated 23.09.2020**

Sd/-  
**(Khushwant Singh)**  
**State Information Commissioner**

- CC to :**
- 1. PIO- Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration,  
Kharar.**
  - 2. Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare,  
Punjab, Chandigarh.**



Sh Bharat Bhushan,  
H No-153, Akash Nagar,  
Near Greenland School,  
P.O Netaji Nagar, Sale, Tabri,  
Ludhiana

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,**  
O/o Secretary, 6<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission,  
Punjab, Chandigarh.

**First Appellate Authority,**  
O/o Chairman, 6<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission,  
Punjab, Chandigarh

..... Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 3983 of 2018**

**PRESENT: Sh.Bharat Bhushan as the Appellant**  
**Ms Veena, Deputy Director-cum-PIO O/o 6<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission for the**  
**Respondent**

**ORDER:** This order should be read in continuation to the earlier order.

That the appellant Sh.Bharat Bhushan vide RTI application dated 27.08.2018 sought copy of noting dated 08.06.2017 – fixation of pay scale of JBT/ETT – present status of action taken, total expenditure of 6<sup>th</sup> pay commission incurred by the Govt and other information from the office of Secretary, 6<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission, Punjab, Chandigarh. The information was not supplied by the PIO, the appellant filed first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 01.10.2018 and second appeal in the Commission on 20.11.2019 under section 19 of the RTI Act 2005.

The case earlier came for hearing on 07.01.2019, 05.02.2019, 13.03.2019, 08.04.2019, 23.10.2019, 13.01.2020, 03.03.2020 & 03.08.2020.

On the date of first hearing on 07.01.2019, the respondent present informed that the information has been sent to the appellant vide letter dated 20.12.2018. The appellant was absent. The appellant was directed to go through the information and send his observations.

On the next date of hearing on 05.02.2019, the respondent was absent. The appellant vide letter dated 22.01.2019 sent deficiencies in the provided information and a copy of same was sent to the PIO with the direction to remove the same.

On the date of hearing on 23.10.2019

That the case was further heard on by this bench on 23.10.2019, due to non appearance of the PIO, the PIO was issued a show **cause notice under section 20 of the RTI Act and directed to** file reply on an affidavit. The PIO was again directed to sort out the discrepancies in the information.

Since the PIO was continuously absent on the hearings nor had complied with the order of the Commission, to secure an erring PIO's presence before the commission, the PIO-Secretary, 6<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission, Punjab, Chandigarh was issued a bailable warrant under section 18(3) of the RTI Act on 03.08.2020, through Senior Superintendent of Police, Chandigarh for his presence before the Commission on **23.09.2020**.

**Appeal Case No. 3983 of 2018**

**Hearing dated 23.09.2020:**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Ludhiana. The PIO O/o Secretary, 6<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission is present at Chandigarh and pleaded that the complete information has been provided to the appellant with a copy sent to the Commission.

The appellant claims that the information is incomplete. Having gone through the RTI application, information supplied by the PIO, and hearing both the parties, the following is concluded:

Point-1	The respondent has provided the noting portion regarding action taken on the application dated 08.06.2017 on whatsapp to the appellant.
Point-2	As per respondent, the information is to be provided by the Personnel Department. The PIO to transfer RTI application to the concerned PIO and the PIO is directed to provide information to the appellant as per the RTI Act
Point-3	As per respondent, the reply has been sent by the Personnel Department on 10.01.2019. The appellant is not satisfied. The PIO to remove the deficiency after the appellant points out the discrepancies.
Point-4	As per respondent, the information is to be provided by the personnel department. The PIO to transfer the RTI application to the department of personnel.

The respondent has submitted a reply to the show cause notice which is taken on the file of the Commission. The decision on show cause will be taken at the next date of hearing.

To come up for further hearing on **17.11.2020 at 10.30 AM** through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana. The PIO to **appear at Chandigarh.**

**Chandigarh  
Dated 23.09.2020**

**Sd/-  
(Khushwant Singh)  
State Information Commissioner**

**CC to :Dy Secretary, 6<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission,Pb.  
Room No.526, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
Mini Secretariat, Pb, Chandigarh**



Sh Rajesh Gupta,  
# 21/5, Asha Puri,  
Barewal, Ludhiana.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,**  
O/o Punjab Energy Development Agency,  
Sector 33-D, Chandigarh.

**First Appellate Authority,**  
O/o Punjab Energy Development Agency,  
Sector 33-D, Chandigarh

..... Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 4157 of 2019**

**PRESENT: Sh.Rajesh Gupta as the Appellant**  
**Sh.Supinder Singh, Jt. Director, PEDA for the Respondent**

**ORDER:** The appellant through RTI application dated 22.07.2019 has sought information regarding subsidy released by PUDA from 01.04.2018 to 31.03.2019 against Roof Top Power Plant Grid and other information concerning the office of Punjab Energy Development Agency Chandigarh. The appellant was denied the information by the PIO vide letter dated 16.08.2019 after which the appellant filed first appeal before the First appellate Authority on 02.09.2019 which disposed off the appeal upholding the PIO's view.

The case was first heard on 26.02.2020. The appellant claimed that the PIO has not provided the information. The respondent was absent. The Commission received a letter on 13.02.2020 from the APIO stating that there is no list available on record for subsidy released against grid connected solar rooftop power plants.

The Commission found it hard to believe that there is no list of beneficiaries of subsidy for Roof Top Power Plant Grid and observed that the PIO has simply ignored the application in a cursory way. The PIO was directed to provide the information. The PIO was also directed to be present on the next date of hearing.

On the date of last hearing on **03.08.2020**, the respondent submitted the information to the Commission which was taken on record. After sifting through the information, the Commission was of the view that since the information contained the names and addresses of many beneficiaries, the bench would like to understand from the appellant the larger public interest that lies in handling this information. The appellant was directed to appear before the Commission on the next date of hearing and convince the Commission that the revealing of the information has a larger public interest.

**Hearing dated 23.09.2020:**

The respondent pleaded that in compliance with the order of the Commission, the information has already been sent to the Commission.

The appellant has not submitted any document which establishes that there is a larger public interest involved in disclosure of the information. The appellant is directed to convince the Commission that the disclosure of information has a larger public interest.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **17.11.2020 at 10.30 AM** through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana. The PIO is exempted for further appearance.

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated 23.09.2020**

Sd/-  
**(Khushwant Singh)**  
**State Information Commissioner**