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Ms. Jasbir Kaur Arora, Principal, Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Alamgir, Ludhiana (Punjab) (M.9356205013)

V/s

Public Information Officer, O/o The District Education Officer(Sec.), Ludhiana (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority,
O/o The District Education Officer(Sec.),
Ludhiana (Punjab)

...Respondents

....Appellant

Appeal Case No. 2995 of 2021

Present: Ms. Jasbir Kaur Arora, the appellant in person.

- i) Ms. Savita Rani, Junior Assistant-cum-APIO(8146532446);
- ii) Sh. Jiwan Singh, Senior Assistant (Ex-PIO)(M.-9417897293);
- iii) Ms. Jaswinder Kaur, Ex-D.E.O.(S), Ludhiana, for the respondent.

ORDER

Heard in the Commission.

- 2. The RTI request is dated 24.03.2021. First appeal is dated 19.05.2021. Second appeal has been received in the Commission on 29.06.2021.
- 3. The appellant, Ms. Jasbir Kaur Arora, appeared in person in today's hearing.
- 4. Ms. Savita Rani, Junior Assistant-cum-APIO, states that case regarding compensation has been sent to the competent authority for approval. As soon as the sanctioning of the competent authority is received, the payment of compensation amount will be sent to the appellant.
- 5. To come up on **16.01.2023 at 12.00 PM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-(Amrit Partap Singh Sekhon) State Information Commissioner Punjab

CC:

Date: 23rd November, 2022

(Regd. Post) Copy of the orders be sent to The Director, Public Instructions (Sec.) Pb., Vidya Bhawan, P.S.E.B. Complex, Sector 62, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) (Punjab) to take necessary action.

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Prem Singh S/o Sh. Kehar Singh, Village – Jawandpur, Tehsil – Sri Khadoor Sahib, Distt. – Tarn Taran(Punjab (M. 7087604780)

....Appellant

(Regd. Post)

Public Information Officer,
O/o The District Development

and Panchayat Officer, Tarn Taran(Punjab)

First Appellate Authority,

O/o The Additional Deputy Commissioner

(Urban Development), Tarn Taran(Punjab)

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5285 of 2021

V/s

Present:

Sh. Prem Singh, the appellant in person.

i) Sh. Harjit singh, B.D.P.O.(M.-8146913200),Sh. Rajwant Singh,

Panchayat Secretary (M.-9876407327), on behalf of the respondent.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 28.10.2022, vide which a show cause notice was issued to the respondent-PIO, o/o DDPO, Tarn Taran.

- 2. Today , the appellant, Sh. Prem Singh, states that incomplete information has been given to him by the respondent PIO
- 3. Sh. Harjit Singh, B.D.P.O.(M.-8146913200), states that he has brought the information today in the Commission, which is handed over to the appellant.
- 4. The appellant has gone through the same and states that the information provided by the respondent is incomplete and not readable.
- 5. After hearing the parties and going through the case file, it is observed that on the last date of hearing, a show cause notice was issued to the PIO, o/o DDPO, Tarn Taran, but today neither he has appeared before the Commission nor he filed reply to the show cause notice issued to him. This shows that the respondent PIO has no regard for the orders issued by the Commission.

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Appeal Case No. 5285 of 2021

- 6. The respondent may note that the RTI Act 2005 is meant for promoting transparency in governmental functioning by bringing to light governmental actions done behind closed doors so that the common man is kept well informed of the goings on in the public authorities with a view to strengthening democracy.
- I am, therefore, left with no other option but to decide the question of imposition of penalty upon PIO, o/o DDPO, Tarn Taran in his absence and without the benefit of any reply by him. From the material on record, it transpires that there has been unnecessary delay in conveying the correct State of affairs to the appellant in regard to his request for information. Rather, his failure to even respond to the show cause direction by the Commission reinforces the fact that he has been without any reasonable cause guilty of remissness in the discharge of his duties. He is, therefore, deserves to be penalized. As the delay is of more than three months, maximum penalty of Rs. 25000/- could be imposed upon, the delinquent PIO. However, taking a lenient view, I impose a penalty of Rs. 10000/- on him. He is directed to deposit this amount in the Treasury before the next date of hearing. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer ,o/o Director Rural Development and Panchayats, Mohali is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs. 10,000/- from the salary of *Respondent-PIO O/o DDPO, Tarn Taran* and deposited in the State Treasury in the following Head of Account and to report its compliance to the Commission before the next date of hearing:-

"0070-Other Administrative Services

60 other Services

800-Other Receipts

86-Fee under the RTI Act, 2005"

8. To come up on **16.01.2023 at 12.00 PM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

(Amrit Partap Singh Sekhon)

Date: 23rd November, 2022 State Information Commissioner Punjab

(Regd. Post) The Director,

Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab,

Vikas Bhawan, Sector 62, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) (Punjab) to take

necessary action

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Sh.Prem Kumar Rattan,

House No. 78/8, Park Road Navi Mandi, Dhuri, Distt. Sangrur

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,

O/o The Executive Officer Municipal Council, Dhuri District Sangrur

First Appellate Authority,

O/o the Additional deputy Commissioner(Urban) Sangrur

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 3781 of 2022

PRESENT: (i) Sh Prem Kumar Rattan, Appellant

(ii) For the Respondent: Sh Ashwani kumar, EO (9646060802)

ORDERS

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 18.10.2022 vide which the Appellant was directed to inspect the record in the O/o Respondent.

- 2. The Respondent states that, as directed in the previous hearing, the Appellant had inspected the record and identified the information required. Further, copy of the same has been sent to the Appellant.
- 3. The Appellant states that he has received the information but he has sought some time to point-out deficiencies in the information provided. The Appellant has also filed his submission through e-mail, which is taken on record.
- 4. In view of the above, the Appellant is directed to point out deficiencies in the information provided by the Respondent and the Respondent shall provide the

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Appeal Case No. 3781 of 2022

information to the Appellant, after the removal of deficiencies, as pointed out by the Appellant. Further, in case any information is not available in their official record, then to file an affidavit for the same.

5. To come up on **07.12.2022 at 12:00PM** in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Chandigarh 23.11.2022 Sd/-(Amrit Partap Singh Sekhon) State Information Commissioner Punjab

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Sh Rajkumar Dhiman,	
S/o Sh Harbans Lal,	
Street Ward No 30C,	
Shri Devaji Residency, Dhakoli,	
Zirakpur, Distt Mohali-160104	Appellant
	.Vs
Public Information Officer, O/o DC, Mohali	
First Appellate Authority	December
O/o DC, Mohali	Respondent
	AC No. 1426 of 2022

PRESENT: (i) Sh Rajkumar Dhiman, Appellant

(ii) For the Respondent: Sh Jagdeep Singh, Supdt. (98769-98882)

ORDER:

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 27.10.2022 vide which the Respondent-PIO was directed to file their point-wise specific reply on the next date of hearing, ie. today.

- 2. Today, the Appellant states that no information has been given to him so far.
- 3. As directed in the previous hearing, the Respondent has filed their affidavit as under:-
 - "1. That as per the information sought by the applicant it is pertinent to mention here that letter/File No PB-161045/2020-21/NCPCR/EDU dated 04.08.2020 was not received by this office. Regarding this the undersigned enquired from the concerned RIA branch who deals in receipt and dispatch of all the correspondence in DC Office. As per their written letter no 331/RIA Dated 17.11.2022 they have informed that the said application was not received by their branch either manually or through computerised record. Hence as per official record the said application was not received by this Office."
- 4. After perusing the documents placed on record, it is ascertained that the PIO O/o DC Mohali had transferred the RTI of the Appellant to PIO O/o DEO (SE) SAS Nagar u/s 6(3) of the RTI Act. However, during the hearing dated 11.07.2022 the Appellant had stated

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AC No. 1426 of 2022

that the information pertains to the PIO O/o DC, Mohali only. Hence, the matter was adjourned to be heard on 17.08.2022 with directions to the PIO O/o DC, Mohali to appear on the next date of hearing. However, on 17.08.2022, no one appeared on behalf of the Respondent and hence, a show-cause notice was issued to PIO O/o DC, Mohali and the case was adjourned to be heard on 27.10.2022.On 27.10.2022 the Respondent stated that they have provided the information to the Appellant however, the Appellant stated that the same is irrelevant. Hence, the case was adjourned to be heard on 23.11.2022 ie. today.

Today, the Respondent has filed their affidavit. I have gone through the same and do not agree with it.

5. In view of the defying attitude of the respondent-PIO, the Bench comes to a logical conclusion that it is a fit case for the imposition of penalty on the PIO, o/o DC, Mohali. Therefore, taking a lenient view, I impose a penalty of **Rs. 5000/- (Rs. Five thousands only) on PIO, o/o DC, Mohali**. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the office of DC, Mohali is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs. 5000/- from the salary of PIO, o/o Dc, Mohali and deposited in the State Treasury in the following Head of Account and to report its compliance to the Commission:-

"0070-Other Administrative Services

60 other Services

800-Other Receipts

86-Fee under the RTI Act, 2005"

6. To come up on **16.01.2023 at 12:00PM** in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Chandigarh 23.11.2022

(Amrit Partap Singh Sekhon) State Information Commissioner Punjab

CC: (i)DC, Mohali (for compliance) (through registered post)

(ii) PIO-Sh Vipan Bhandari, DRO 0/o DC Mohali (through registered post)

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Sh Happy, (M-99144-40671) S/o Sh Malkiat Singh, Village- kharak Singh Wala, PO- Ghuman Kalan. Tehsil & Distt-Mansa

.....Appellant

Public Information Officer,

O/o The Director, Deptt of Local Government, Punjab (Recruitment Cell) Municipal Bhawan, Sector 35A, Plot no 03, Chandigarh

First Appellate Authority

O/o The Director, Deptt of Local Government, Punjab (Recruitment Cell) Municipal Bhawan, Sector 35A, Plot no 03, Chandigarh

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AC No. 2285 of 2022

.Vs

PRESENT: (i) Sh Happy, Appellant along with Sh Malkit Singh

(ii) For the Respondent: Ms Sunita, Supdt (9878984780) and Sh Krishna Dutt, computer operator (9876888293)

ORDER:

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 27.10.2022.

- 2. The Appellant states that he has not received the complete information till date. He has also filed his submissions via e-mail. Copy of the same is taken on record.
- 3. The Respondent states they have provided the information to the Appellant. Further, the Respondent-PIO has also filed their reply to the show-cause notice. I have gone through the same and have agreed with it. Resultantly, the proceedings u/s 20(1) of the RTI Act are hereby dropped.

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AC No. 2285 of 2022

- 4. The perusal of the file shows that the Respondent has provided the information to the Appellant. However, the Appellant is not satisfied with the same. Hence, the Respondent-PIO is directed to file their reply on affidavit on the next date of hearing.
- 5. To come up on **09.12.2022 at 12.00 PM** in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

Chandigarh 23.11.2022

(Amrit Partap Singh Sekhon) State Information Commissioner Punjab

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H. S. Hundal, Advocate,

Chamber No. 203, Judicial Courts, Sector 76, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) - 160071 (Punjab) (M.-98785-00082)

....Appellant

i) Public Information Officer, O/o The Hon'ble Civil Judge,

Junior Division /JMIC, S.A.S. Nagar (Punjab)

ii) Public Information Officer, O/o The Hon'ble Civil Judge, Junior Division /JMIC, Admin./English Branch, S.A.S. Nagar (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority, O/o The Hon'ble Civil Judge, Senior Division /JMIC, S.A.S. Nagar (Punjab)

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 3552 of 2022

Present: (i) Sh. H.S.Hundal the appellant

(ii) For the respondent: Smt. Uma Bawa, Reader –cum- APIO (9855706622)

V/s

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 27.10.2022, vide which respondent had sought some time.

- 2. Today the appellant Sh. H.S.Hundal states that he has received information only on point nos. 1 and 7.
- 3. Regarding remaining information, the respondent Smt. Uma Bawa sought some time.

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Appeal Case No. 3552 of 2022

4. Request of the appellant is acceded to and the appeal is fixed for hearing on **09.12.2022 at 12.00 PM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

Date: 23rd November, 2022 (Amrit Partap Singh Sekhon)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Yogesh Mahajan

S/o Sh. Kuldip Raj Mahajan, Opposite Water Tank, Municipal Market, Mission Road, Pathankot (Punjab) (M.-98143-54649)

....Appellant

Public Information Officer,

O/o The Executive Engineer, Punjab Water Supply And Sanitation, Division Malout (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority,

O/o The Superintending Engineer, Punjab Water Supply and Sanitation, SriMuktsar Sahib(Punjab)

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 1811 of 2022

V/s

Present: (i) Sh. Yogesh Mahajan the appellant

(ii) For the respondent: None is present on behalf of the respondent

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 28.10.2022, vide which neither the appellant nor the respondent was present.

- 2. Today, the appellant Sh. Yogesh Mahajan states that he has received four pages information only.
- 3. The respondent is absent today.
- 4. The perusal of the file shows that the appellant filed RTI with PIO, o/o The Executive Engineer, Punjab Water Supply and Sanitation on 06.01.2022, but after lapse of more than ten months no information has been given to him so far. This shows that the respondent has no regard for the orders issued by the Commission.
- 5. After hearing the appellant and examining the case file, it emerges that PIO has delayed/ denied in providing the information to the appellant. In view of the above, *PIO-o/o XEN, Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Malout is directed* to show cause in writing or through affidavit under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, as to why penalty be not

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Appeal Case No. 1811 of 2022

imposed upon him for willful delay/ denial of the information to the RTI applicant and why the compensation be not awarded to the appellant under Section 19 (8)(b) of the Act for detriment suffered.

In addition to his submission, the PIO is also hereby 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 note that in case he does not file his submission and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next 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.

6. To come up on **19.12.2022 at 12.00 PM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

Date: 23rd November, 2022 (Amrit Partap Singh Sekhon)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab