

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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

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Whatsapp No. 6284820189



Sh. Manjinder Kumar S/o Sh. Laxman Singh,
Village - Pensra,
House No. 120, PO - Majara Dingriya,
Tehsil - Garhshankar,
Distt Hoshiarpur-146109.M : 8968700606

....Complainant

Vs

Public Information Officer, **Registered**
O/o Block Development and Panchayat Officer,
Garhshankar, Distt Hoshiarpur.

Public Information Officer-cum- **Registered**
Panchayat Secretary,
o/o Block Development and Panchayats Officer
Garhshankar, Distt Hoshiarpur.

Public Information Officer
o/o the Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Dev.)
Hoshiarpur

....Respondent

Complaint Case No. 461/2020

(Video conference/cisco webex/phone Proceedings)

Present:- Sh. Manjinder Singh, complainant.
Sh. Vikas, Supdt. o/o Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Dev.) Hoshiarpur, Sh.
Mehakmeet Singh, Block Development and Panchayats Officer 9814171290
and Sh. Makhan Singh, Panchayat Secretary 9417348556 on behalf of the
respondents.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 18.1.2021.

2. The complainant states that he has received the complete information except Point No. 2,9 and 10 of the RTI application. A letter bearing No. 4727 dated 5.2.2021 has been received from the office of the Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Dev.) Hoshiarpur in which it has mentioned that a reply pertaining to Point No. 10 has already been sent to the complainant vide No. 517 dated 25.2.2020 and the same has been reiterated by the representative of the respondents on behalf of the Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Dev.), Hoshiarpur. In addition he also states that the remaining reply pertaining to Point No. 10 of the RTI application has to be submitted by the office of the Block Development and Panchayats Officer. A copy of the letter sent by the office of the Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Dev.) Hoshiarpur is taken on record.

3. The Public Information Officer-cum-Block Development and Panchayats Officer requested for the adjournment of the case and assured that the complete information as per the record will be supplied to the appellant before the next date of hearing.

4. Accordingly, the Public Information Officer o/o the Addl. Deputy Commissioner (Dev.), Hoshiarpur is exempted from further appearance in this case as the information related to his office has already been supplied.

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Complaint Case No. 461 of 2020

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5. Also the Public Information Officer-cum-Block Development and Panchayats Officer is directed to remain present at Chandigarh along with the original record pertaining to Point No. 2,9 and 10 of the RTI application on the next date of hearing. Also the decision regarding show cause notice issued to Sh. Mehakmeet Singh, Block Development and Panchayats Officer, Garhshankar will be taken on the next date of hearing.

6. To come up on 17.3.2021 at 12.30 PM at Chandgiarh.

Dated: 24.2.2021

Sd/
(Suresh Arora)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.

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Shri Gurmeet Singh s/o Shri Lal Singh
r/o Village Kikkar Khera,
Tehsil Abohar,
District Fazilka.

....Appellant

Vs

Public Information Officer
o/o Block Development and Panchayats Officer,
Block Munak at Andana,
Tehsil Khanauri,
District Sangrur.

First Appellate Authority
o/o Block Development and Panchayats Officer,
Munak,
District Sangrur.

Sh. Shavinder Singh,
Block Development and Panchayats Officer
Block Andana at Munak,
Sangrur.

....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 1393 of 2020
(Video Conference Proceedings)

Present:- Sh. Gurmeet Singh, appellant.
None on behalf of the respondents. _____.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 14.1.2021.

2. The appellant states that he has not received the information pertaining to point number 2,3 and 4 of the RTI application. The respondent-Public Information Officer is absent without intimation. However, a reply has been received from the respondent-Public Information Officer vide number 251 dated 11.2.2021, which is taken on record.

3. According to the said letter the respondent-Public Information Officer has filed the specific reply pertaining to point number 2, 3 and 4 of the RTI application. But the appellant states that he has not received a copy of the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act 1994.

4. Sh. Shavinder Singh, Block Development and Panchayats Officer-cum-Public Information Officer was issued a show cause notice on 26.11.2020 but neither he has filed the reply nor the complete information is being supplied to the appellant. None is present on behalf of the respondent-Public Information Officer-cum-Block Development and Panchayats Officer. It is, thus apparent from the response of the respondent-PIO 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.

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Appeal Case No. 1393 of 2020

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5. I am, therefore, of the view that ends of justice would be met by awarding a sum of Rs. 10000/- (Rupees ten thousand only) by way of compensation to the Appellant. This amount shall be payable from the State Exchequer before the next date of hearing by the office of the Block Development and Panchayats Officer and in case of non compliance of the orders of the Commission before the next date of hearing the compensation amount will be enhanced.

6. The Public Information Officer-cum-Block Development and Panchayats Officer is also directed to supply a copy of the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act 1994 before the next date of hearing to the appellant under intimation to the Commission.

7. To come up on 1.4.2021 at 12.30 PM to be heard through Video Conference Facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur/Cisco Webex 913122670.

sd

Dated: 24.2.2021

(Suresh Arora)

Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.

CC

The Director (By name) **Registered**
Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt., Pb.
Vikas Bhawan, Sector 62,
Mohali

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Er. Arun Garg 9517578970
H.No. 40-41, Central Town, Village DAD,
PO Lalton Kalan, District Ludhiana 142022

....Appellant

Vs

Public Information Officer
o/o Sub Divisional Magistrate (West),
Ludhiana

First Appellate Authority
o/o Deputy Commissioner,
District Ludhiana

....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 2969 of 2020
(Video Conference Proceedings)

Present:- None on behalf of the appellant.
Sh. Baljeet Singh, Steno o/o SDM, West Ludhiana 8427220003 on behalf of
the respondents.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 12.1.2021.

2. A request has been received from the appellant regarding the adjournment of the case through email, which is taken on record. However, the representative of the respondents states that the partial information has already been sent to the appellant and the remaining information will also be sent to the appellant before the next date of hearing.

3. According to the assurance given by the appellant, the case is adjourned with the directions to the Public Information Officer o/o the Sub Divisional Magistrate West, District Ludhiana to supply the complete information as available on record pertaining to the RTI application of the appellant before the next date of hearing failing which the punitive action will be taken on the next date of hearing under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

4. To come up on 30.3.2021 at 12.30 PM to be heard through Video Conference Facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, District Ludhiana/Cisco Webex 913122670.

Dated: 24.2.2021

Sd/
(Suresh Arora)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.

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Sh. Kuldip Singh 9872025455

Village Ralla

Tehsil and Distt Mansa.

..Complainant

Vs

Public Information Officer (By name) **Registered**

o/o District Development and Panchayats Officer

Mansa

....Respondent

Complaint Case No. 755 of 2020.

(Video Conference Proceedings)

Present:- Sh. Kuldip Singh, appellant.

Ms Kavita Garg, Block Development and Panchayats Officer, Bhikhi 9530995957 and Sh. Vaneet Kumar, Panchayat Secretary 9888777595 on behalf of the respondents.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 18.1.2021.

2. The complainant states that the respondents have supplied the 1800 pages but only 557 pages were related to the information as has been sought. He further states that the respondents have supplied the unattested information. Furthermore, the representative of the respondents states that the respondents have supplied the information pertaining to one year i.e. 2014 whereas he has sought the information from 2004 to 2014.

3. The respondent-Public Information Officer-cum-Panchayat Secretary states that he has supplied the information as per the charge taken from his predecessor. As far as the attestation is concerned the respondent-Public Information Officer states that he will attest the same after the hearing is over.

4. Regarding the remaining information pertaining to 2004 to 2013, the respondent-Public Information Officer-cum-Panchayat Secretary states that he has supplied the information as per the record he has taken in charge and nothing remained pending which could be supplied.

5. Since, the appellant has sought the information from Public Information Officer o/o the District Development and Panchayats Officer, therefore, he is directed to remain present on the next date of hearing along with the Block Development and Panchayats Officer and Panchayat Secretary concerned.

6. The directions are also issued to the respondents to ensure that the record pertaining to 2004 to 2013 be provided to the concerned Panchayat Secretary, Sh. Vaneet Kumar and in case no record has been prepared during the said period, an undertaking be filed on the next date of hearing. Also in case the previous Panchayat Secretary has not handed over the record then a matter be taken up with the appropriate authority under the law to recover the record so that the sought information can be supplied to the complainant.

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Complaint Case No. 755 of 2020

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7. To come up on 5.4.2021 at 12.30 PM to be heard through Video Conference Facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Jalandhar.

Sd/

Dated: 24.2.2021

(Suresh Arora)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.

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Shri Gurmeet Singh s/o Shri Lal Singh
r/o Village Kikkar Khera,
Tehsil Abohar,
District Fazilka.

....Appellant

Vs

Sh. Uttam Singh, Public Information Officer
-cum-Panchayat Secretary, Gram Panchayat Bhulan,
c/o Block Development and Panchayats Officer,
Block Munak at Andana,
Tehsil Khanauri,
District Sangrur.

Public Information Officer,(By name)
o/o the Senior Superintendent of Police,
District Sangrur.

Registered

First Appellate Authority
o/o Block Development and Panchayats Officer,
Block Munak,
District Sangrur.

....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 1400 of 2020

Present:- Sh. Gurmeet Singh, appellant at Chandigarh.
Sh. Kuldip Singh, 8054545411 o/o Senior Superintendent of Police, Sangrur on behalf
of the respondents.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 14.1.2021.

2. The representative of the respondents on behalf of the Senior Superintendent of Police have sent a letter bearing No. 6 dated 20.2.2021 along with the five annexures, which are taken on record. Also a letter bearing No. 244 dated 8.2.2021 has been received from the Public Information Officer-cum-Block Development and Panchayats Officer vide which the specific reply has been filed pertaining to Point No. 5 of the RTI application.

3. Accordingly, copies of the same as mentioned in para 2 above are **sent** to the appellant with an advice to go through the same and point out deficiency, if any, to the respondent-Public Information Officer before the next date of hearing.

4. However, the decision regarding Show cause notice issued to the respondent-Public Information Officer Sh. Uttamjit Singh reply from whom has already been received, will be taken on the next date of hearing.

4. To come up on 1.4.2021 at 12.30 PM to be heard through Video Conference Facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur/Cisco Webex 913122670.

Sd/

Dated: 24.2.2021

(Suresh Arora)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.

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Sh. Karnail Singh s/o Chhanga Singh 9876944476
H.No. 378,
New Azad Nagar,
District Ferozepur.

....Appellant

Vs

Sh. Harjinder Singh,
Public Information Officer **Registered**
o/o District Development and Panchayats Officer,
Mini Secretariat,
Ferozepur.

First Appellate Authority
o/o Deputy Commissioner
Mini Secretariat,
Ferozepur.

Public Information Officer **Registered**
o/o Block Development and Panchayats Officer,
Block Mamdot, Ferozepur.

....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 1865 of 2020

(Video Conference/Cisco Webex Proceedings)

Present:- Sh. Karnail Singh, appellant.
Sh. Jasmail Singh, Panchayat Secretary 9876944476 9417538069 in person on
behalf of the respondents.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 18.1.2021.

2. The representative of the respondents states that he has brought the information along and submitted a copy of the information pertaining to Point No. 1(1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4), which is taken on record.

3. None is present on behalf of the respondent-Public Information Officer o/o the District Development and Panchayats Officer. Viewing the attitude in dealing with the RTI application of the appellant Sh. Harjinder Singh, Public Information Officer o/o the District Development and Panchayats Officer is thus issued a show cause notice to explain in a self-attested affidavit as to why a compensation to the appellant for detriment suffered by him under section 19(8) of the RTI Act, 2005 may not be awarded.

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 awarding the compensation on the next date of hearing. He may take a note that in case he does not file his written reply and do 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.

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Appeal Case No. 1865 of 2020

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4. One last opportunity is granted to the respondent-Public Information Officer o/o the District Development and Panchayats Officer to file the reply/supply the complete information to the appellant before the next date of hearing under intimation to the Commission failing which the case will be recommended for disciplinary proceedings as well as the penalty provisions will be invoked on the next date of hearing.

5. The respondent-Public Information Officer-cum-Panchayat Secretary is directed to supply the information pertaining to Point No.2 of the RTI application before the next date of hearing to the appellant under intimation to the Commission failing which the penalty provisions will be invoked on the next date of hearing.

6. To come up 1.4.2021 at 12.30 PM on to be heard through Video Conference Facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepur/Cisco Webex 913122670.

Dated: 24.2.2021

(Suresh Arora)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.

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Sh. Mall Singh s/o Sh. Guljar Singh 9914032831
r/o Village Smalsar,
Tehsil BaghaPurana,
District Moga.

....Appellant

Vs

Sh. Jagjit Singh **Registered**
Public Information Officer
o/o District Development and Panchayats Officer,
Mini Secretariat, Moga

First Appellate Authority
o/o Deputy Commissioner,
Mini Secretariat,
Moga.

....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 1377 of 2020
(Video Conference/Cisco Webex proceedings)

Present:- Sh. Mall Singh, appellant.
Sh. Shamsher Singh 9317200008 on behalf of the respondents.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 15.1.2021.

2. The appellant states that no compensation has been paid by the respondent-Public Information Officer. He also states that nothing has been received from the respondent-Public Information Officer concerning the mustroll related to his own work and he has signed the same pertaining to April, June, July(half) and August, 2019.

3. After issuance of show cause notice to Sh.Jagjit Singh, Public Information Officer-cum-District Development and Panchayats Officer, the compensation was awarded to the appellant amounting to Rs.5000/- (Rupees five thousand only). But neither he is present nor he has paid the compensation amount, as has been awarded. Viewing the attitude in dealing with the RTI application, the compensation amount is enhanced from Rs.5000/- (Rupees five thousands only) to Rs.10,000/- (Rupees ten thousands only).

4. The respondent-Public Information Officer is directed to remain present on the next date of hearing and pay the compensation amounting to Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousands only) from the state exchequer in shape of a bank draft before the next date of hearing to the appellant failing which the compensation amount will be enhanced. The respondent-Public Information Officer is also directed to send a copy of the draft to the Commission for record.

5. To come up on 30.3.2021 at 12.30 PM to be heard through Video Conference Facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Moga/Cisco Webex 913122670 (for the appellant) and at Chandigarh for the respondents.

Dated: 24.2.2021

Sd/
(Suresh Arora)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.

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Sh. Jarnail Singh 8968038080

Village Latore,

Tehsil and district Fatehgarh Sahib.

....Appellant

Vs

Sh. Mohinderjit Singh, 9478101503

Public Information Officer **Registered**

o/o Block Development and Panchayats Officer,

Sarhind,

District Fatehgarh Sahib.

First Appellate Authority

o/o District Development and Panchayats Officer,

Fatehgarh Sahib.

....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 3025 of 2020

(Video Conference Proceedings)

Present:- Sh. Jarnail Singh, appellant along with Sh. Amrik Singh, in person.

Sh. Tarsem Singh, _____ on behalf of the respondents, in person.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 15.1.2021.

2. The representative of the respondents handed over the DVD concerning the auction and states that nothing remained pending which could be supplied. However, the appellant states that he has been harassed as his RTI application was of 19.7.2019 and the respondents have supplied the DVD regarding auction of panchayat land after one year. Furthermore he requested for the compensation.

3. The perusal of the file shows that in this case, application for information was filed on 19.7.2019 but after lapse of more than one and a half year the respondents have supplied the DVD as has been sought by the appellant. Also a show cause notice was issued to Sh. Mohinderjit Singh 9478101503, Public Information Officer-cum-Block Development and Panchayats Officer, Sarhind but neither any submission nor he is personally present during the hearing. It is, thus apparent from the response of the respondent-PIO 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.

4. I am, therefore, of the view that ends of justice would be met by awarding a sum of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five thousand only) by way of compensation to the Appellant. This amount shall be payable from the State Exchequer before the next date of hearing.

5. To come up on 31.3.2021 at 12.30 pm to be heard through Video Conference Facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Fatehgarh Sahib/Cisco Webex 913122670.

Sd/

(Suresh Arora)

Dated: 24.2.2021

Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.

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Sh. Dalip Singh S/o Sh. Lachhman Singh,

R/o Village – New Salem Shah, (94173-76444)

Tehsil & District- Fazilka.

.....Appellant

Vs

Public Information Officer (By name)

Registered

o/o Block Development and Panchayats Officer,

Block Fazilka.

Fazilka

First Appellate Authority

o/o District Development and Panchayats Officer,

Fazilka.

Sh. Paramjit Singh,

Registered

Block Development and Panchayats Officer, Fazilka

c/o Director,

Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt.,Pb.

Vikas Bhawan, Sector 62, Mohali

Mohali.

....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 276 of 2020
(Video Conference Proceedings)

Present: None on behalf of the appellant.

Sh. Joga Singh, Block Development and Panchayats Officer (through V.C.) and

Sh. Santokh Singh, Panchayat Secretary 9692009004 in person on behalf of
the respondents.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 4.1.2021 and 14.1.2021.

2. The respondents have placed on record a copy of letter bearing No. 618 dated 19.2.2021 in which the appellant has given an undertaking that he has received the panchayat record and other information as has been sought.

3. Regarding the compensation, as has been awarded to the appellant amounting to Rs.5000/-(Rupees five thousands only), the respondent-Public Information Officer-cum-Block Development and Panchayats Officer requested for the adjournment and assured that the same will be paid to the appellant before the next date of hearing.

4. None is present on behalf of the Public Information Officer o/o the Financial Commissioner, Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt.,Pb. One opportunity is granted to him to file the status regarding disciplinary action as has been recommended vide orders of the Commission dated 14.1.2021 against Sh. Paramjit Singh, Block Development and Panchayats Officer, Fazilka.

5. The Public Information Officer-cum-Block Development and Panchayats Officer is directed to pay the compensation amount to the appellant before the next date of hearing as has been assured by him.

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Appeal Case No. 276 of 2020

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5. To come up on 30.3.2021 at 12.30 PM to be heard through Video Conference Facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Fazilka/Cisco Webex 913122670.

Dated: 24.2.2021

sd
(Suresh Arora)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.

CC

Financial Commissioner (by name) Registered
Government of Punjab,
Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt.,
Vikas Bhawan, Sec-62, Mohali

To look into the matter personally and
ensure compliance of this order.

The Director (By name)
Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt.,
Vikas Bhawan, Sector 62,
Mohali

Registered

-do-

District Development and Panchayats Officer, (By name) (Registered)
Mini Secretariat,
Fazilka.

-do-

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Sh. Bakhshish Singh 9463419584
Village Sekhowal, PO Borre,
Sub Tehsil Koom Kalan,
District Ludhiana.

Sh. Gurdev Singh 9876393455
Village Sekhowal, PO Borre,
Sub Tehsil Koom Kalan,
District Ludhiana.

Gurdev Singh 9876393455
Village Sekhowal, PO Borre,
Sub Tehsil Koom Kalan,
District Ludhiana.

Kashmir Singh 8427362706
Village Sekhowal, PO Borre,
Sub Tehsil Koom Kalan,
District Ludhiana

Wasan Singh 9914982775
Village Sekhowal, PO Borre,
Sub Tehsil Koom Kalan,
District Ludhiana.

Bikramjit Singh 9501144129
Village Sekhowal, PO Borre,
Sub Tehsil Koom Kalan,
District Ludhiana.

Dhian Singh 8146802043
Village Sekhowal, PO Borre,
Sub Tehsil Koom Kalan,
District Ludhiana,

....Appellants

Vs

Public Information Officer
o/o Panchayat Secretary
Gram Panchayat Village Shekhowal,
c/o Block Development and Panchayats Officer,
Ludhiana-II,
District Ludhiana.

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First Appellate Authority
o/o Deputy Commissioner
District Ludhiana.

Public Information Officer (By name) Registered
o/o the Divisional Deputy Director,
Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt., Pb.
Patiala.

....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 2531 of 2020, Appeal Case No. 2532 of 2020, Appeal Case No. 2533 of 2020, Appeal Case No. 2534 of 2020, Appeal Case No. 2535 of 2020, Appeal Case No. 2537 of 2020, Appeal Case No. 2538 of 2020,

Present:- **Sh. Lal Chand M 9417467183** on behalf of the appellant Sh. Bakhshish Singh, Sh. Gurdev Singh, Sh. Gurdev Singh s/o Sh. Sardha Ram, Sh. Gurdev Singh s/o Sh. Banta Singh, Shri Kashmir Singh, Sh. Wasan Singh, Sh. Bikramjit Singh, Shri Dhian Singh at Chandigarh. (All the appellants are present during the hearing).

Sh. Gurmail Singh, Panchayat Secretary 9888243496 7986799254 on behalf of the respondents at Chandigarh.

None on behalf of the Divisional Deputy Director, Rural Development and Panchayat, Department, Punjab, Patiala.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 30.10.2020 vide which the Divisional Deputy Director, Rural Development and Panchayat, Department, Punjab, Patiala was impleaded as necessary party in this case to supply the information. As per the order dated 29.1.2021 vide which both the parties were directed to remain present at Chandigarh along with the original record /supplied record so that the matter could be taken to its logical end. The case was adjourned for today i.e. 24.2.2021. Shri Lal Chand submits the authority letters on behalf of all the appellants of the titled cases. The sought information, representative of the appellants and the respondents of titled cases are same, therefore, all the cases are clubbed to decide the same.

2. The respondent Public Information Officer has brought the original record which he has taken from his predecessor along with him and the representative of the appellant along with the appellants inspected the complete record during the course of hearing. After

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inspection the photo copies of the information related with the RTI application so identified by the representative of the appellant, is handed over to him pertaining to point no. 3,33,35 with which the appellants showed their satisfaction. The representative of the appellant further submits that the present Panchayat Secretary, Shri Gurmail Singh has supplied the incomplete record pertaining to point no. 1,24,34,36,37,38 and 39 as he has sought the up to date record. Shri Lal Chand representative of the appellant has submitted a letter to the Commission and requests to provide the complete information pertaining to point 1 and information regarding point no. 31 and 32. The representative of the appellant also submits copies of resolution dated 21.7.2020 and 4.8.2020 of proceeding book and requested to direct the respondents to supply the certified copy of the same, which were made available to them by Sarpanch Amrik Kaur as the same proceeding book was not shown/made available by the concerned Panchayat Secretary. The letter submitted by the representative of the appellant is taken on the record.

3. The respondent PIO further states that he has joined this office in the month of December 2020 and his predecessor Shri Harpal Singh, Panchayat Secretary has handed over incomplete record pertaining to point no. 1, 24,34,36,37,38, and 39, which he has already supplied to the appellant. He further states that his predecessor has not handed over the record pertaining to point no. 2,4 to 23 and 25 to 30. Furthermore, he states that he has brought this fact to the notice of his higher authorities. He also submits his charge report (charge taken over and handed over report), which is taken on record. He also states that information pertaining to Point no. 40 and 41 relates to Manrega and the same can be downloaded from the website www.narega.gov.in. Regarding point no 42 and 43 the respondent-Public Information Officer states that the same relates to the District Social Security Officer and the appellant may be advised to file the application afresh with which the appellant agreed to. The respondent Public Information Officer assured that he will provide the information /copies of documents pertaining to Point No. 1,31, 32 and the copies of the proceeding book of 21.7.2020 and dated 4.8.2020 before the next date of hearing.

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4. During the hearing dated 30.10.2020, Shri Harpal Singh M 7986799254 previous Panchayat Secretary had admitted before the Commission that the original record is in the custody of Divisional Deputy Director, Rural Development and Panchayat, Department ,Punjab, Patiala as the inquiry is being conducted by him against Ex-Sarpanch. Thereafter, Divisional Deputy Director, Rural Development and Panchayat, Department, Punjab, Patiala was impleaded as a necessary party and was directed to file his response/provide the information to the appellant. He is absent without intimation during the last two hearings and also he has not filed any response in this regard. Viewing the attitude of the respondent-Public Information Officer in dealing with the RTI application seriously, Sh. Gagandeep Singh Virk, Public Information Officer-cum-Divisional Deputy Director, Rural Development and Panchayat, Department ,Punjab, Patiala 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 wilful delay/denial of the information to the RTI application.

5. In addition to the written reply, the PIO 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.

6. The respondent Public Information Officer o/o Divisional Deputy Director, Rural Development and Panchayat, Department, Punjab, Patiala is directed to file his response/provide the information as mentioned above and remain present on the next date of hearing. A copy of the charge report of Shri Gurmel Singh is **sent** along with this order.

7. A copy of the letter submitted by the representative of the appellant is **sent** along with this order to the respondent Public Information Officer Shri Gurmel Singh, Panchayat Secretary with the directions to supply the remaining information before the next date of hearing as has been assured by him.

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8. To come on 5.4.2021 at 12.30 PM to be heard through video Conference Facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner Ludhiana/Patiala/ Cisco Webex.

Dated: 24.2.2021

Sd/
(Suresh Arora)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.