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Helpline No.0172-2864100(10:00 AM to 04:00PM) Working Days

Smt. Paramjit Kaur, R/o Ward No.24,Amal Street, Malerkotla Road, Khanna, District Ludhiana.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Nagar Council, Khanna, Distt. Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Deputy Director, Local Govt. Department, Ludhiana.

....Respondents

AC No.1136 of 2020

Present: (i)

(i) Appellant- absent (ii) None on behalf of the PIO.

ORDER:

(Contacted on Mobile Phone)

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 21.10.2020 passed by this Bench on the previous date of hearing
- 2. The case was scheduled to be heard today through V.C. at DC Office, Ludhiana. Smt. Paramjit Kaur, appellant has not come present for the hearing. However, an e.mail has been received from her informing that due to some family function, she is unable to attend the hearing and as such, has requested for another date.
- 3. The PIO has not come present to attend the hearing nor any representative has been deputed to attend the hearing through V.C.
- 4. Smt. Paramjit Kaur, appellant is contacted on mobile phone. She states that no information has been supplied to her so far.
- 5. On perusal of the case file, the Bench observes that PIO is absent for the hearing for second consecutive time. Neither any information has been supplied to the appellant nor the reply to the show cause notice issued on the previous hearing has been filed. The Bench also takes serious note of the absence of the PIO as also the non-compliance of the directions of the Bench. This indifferent and lackadaisical attitude of the PIO towards the directions of the Commission is viewed adversely.



AC No.1136/2020

The facts of the case prove beyond any doubt that the PIO/Respondent does not deserve any leniency. Hence, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, a penalty to the tune of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) is imposed upon PIO, O/o Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Khanna, District Ludhiana, to be deducted from his salary, which is to be deposited in the State Treasury under the relevant head. The Drawing & Disbursing Officer concerned is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs.5,000/- from the salary of the PIO and deposit the same in State Treasury in the following Head of Account and to report its compliance to the Commission before the next hearing:-

- 0070-Other Administrative Services - 60-Other Services-

-0800-Other Receipts- 86-Fee under the RTI Act, 2005.

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- 7. The PIO is also directed to supply complete information to the appellant before the next date of hearing as also to come in person to attend the hearing through V.C. on the next date of hearing. He is also directed to file reply to the show cause notice as to file an affidavit, as per directions given on the previous hearing dated 21.10.2020.
- 8. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 10.02.2021 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in the office of D.C. Ludhiana. Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 24.11.2020

Sd/-(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma(Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy to (By Regd.Post)

Public Information Officer O/o Nagar Council, Khanna, Distt. Ludhiana.

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Smt. Paramjit Kaur, R/o Ward No.24, Amal Street, Malerkotla Road, Khanna, District.Ludhiana.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer O/o Nagar Council, Khanna, Distt. Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority O/o Deputy Director, Local Govt. Department, Ludhiana.

....Respondents

AC No.1138 of 2020

Appellant- absent Present: (i)

Shri Raghbir Singh, Sanitary Inspector, M.C. Khanna, District (ii) Ludhiana, on behalf of the PIO.

ORDER:

(Heard through Video Conferencing/On Mobile Phone)

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 21.10.2020 passed by this Bench on the previous date of hearing
- 2. The case has been heard today through V.C. at DC Office, Ludhiana. Smt. Paramjit Kaur, appellant has not come present for the hearing. However, an e.mail has been received from her informing that due to some family function, she is unable to attend the hearing and as such, has requested for another date.
- 3. Shri Raghbir Singh, Sanitary Inspector, Municipal Council, Khanna comes present to attend the hearing through V.C. He states that information has been provided to the appellant vide letter dated 20.10.2020.
- 4. The appellant is contacted on mobile phone. She states that she is not satisfied with the information supplied as same is not as per her RTI application since she has asked for the head of account under which her salary is drawn.



-2-

AC No.1138/2020

- 5. On perusal of the case file, the Bench observes that reply dated 20.10.2020 is not relevant as it says that the head from which her salary is paid may be obtained from her personal file. On the asking of the Bench, Shri Raghbir Singh states that the record in this regard is available in her personal file which is with her.
- 6. The Bench observes that the reply of the PIO is not specific and is unsatisfactory and expresses its displeasure on the statement made by the representative of PIO Shri Raghbir Singh. As the information sought by the appellant is a simple query, the PIO is directed to supply specific information to the appellant before the next hearing as also to ensure to come in person to attend the hearing through V.C. on the next date. The PIO is given another opportunity to file reply to the show cause notice issued on the previous hearing, failing which, penalty shall be imposed on the PIO
- 7. With the above directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 10.02.2021 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in DC Office, Ludhiana. Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 24.11.2020 Sd/-(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma,(Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Shri Ram Avtar S/o Shri Ram Sagar R/o H.No.1998/A, Main Barota Road, Mohalla Guru Gobind Singh Nagar, New Shimlapuri, New Sai Public School, Ludhiana.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Commissioner. Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

....Respondents

AC No.2232 of 2020

- Shri Ram Avtar, appellant Present: (i)
 - None on behalf of the PIO. (ii)

ORDER:

(Heard through Video Conferencing)

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 21.10.2020 passed by this Bench on the previous hearing.
- 2. The case has been heard today through V.C. in D.C. Office, Ludhiana. Accordingly, the case has been heard today through V.C. The appellant comes present to attend the hearing through V.C. He states that he has received partial response to some extent as out of his medical bills claim of Rs.45,617/-, a payment of Rs.29,207/- has been credited to his bank account. However, an amount of Rs.16,410/- is still pending.
- 3. Neither the PIO has come present to attend the hearing nor any representative has been deputed to attend the hearing through V.C. on his behalf.
- 4. The Bench, on perusing the case file, observes that the PIO is absent for the second consecutive hearing. No information has been supplied to the appellant except that



-2-

AC No.2232/2020

part payment out of medical bills of the appellant has been made, however, no status as to the payment of remaining amount, has been intimated to the appellant. The Bench further observes that show cause notice was issued to the PIO on the previous, but no reply has been filed by the PIO. The Bench views the absence of the PIO as also the non-supply of information to the appellant adversely.

- 5. The PIO is given another opportunity to supply complete information to the appellant before the next hearing as also to ensure to come in person to attend the hearing through V.C. on the next date. He is also directed to file reply to the show cause notice, failing which penal consequences shall follow.
- 6. With the above direction, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 10.02.2021 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in DC Office, Ludhiana. Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 24.11.2020 Sd/-(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma,(Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab



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Shri Sanjeev Kumar (Mohni) Press Reporter, Punjab Kesri, Jagbani, # 539/4A, Street No.1, New Vishnupuri Road, Ludhiana.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Director, State Transport Department, Punjab, Sector-17, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority-cum-

O/o Director, State Transport Department, Punjab, Sector-17, Chandigarh.

....Respondents

AC No.2298 of 2020

Present: (i) Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Appellant

(ii) Shri Darshan Singh, Senior Assistant & Shri Kuldeep Singh, Senior Assistant, O/o Director, State Transport, Pb,, Chandigarh, in person before the Bench.

ORDER

(Heard through Video Conferencing)

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 21.10.2020 passed by this Bench on the previous hearing.
- 2. The case has been heard today through Video Conferencing at D.C. Office, Ludhiana. The appellant Shri Sanjeev Kumar has come present to attend the hearing through V.C. He states that he had visited the office of PIO on 20.11.2020, but he was not shown any record and not supplied any information. Also the amount of Rs.3100/- deposited by him for the supply of information has not been refunded as directed by the Bench.
- 3. Shri Darshan Singh, Senior Assistant and Shri Kuldip Singh, Senior Assistant O/o Director, State Transport, Punjab attend the hearing before the Bench in person. Shri Darshan Singh, Senior Assistant states that the information has been supplied to the appellant vide letter dated 20.11.2020.



-2-

AC No.2298/2020

4. Since the appellant denies receipt of any information, the Bench directs the PIO to call the appellant again to his office on any working day by tying up with him and allow him access to the relevant official records. The appellant, after inspection of records, will identify the information as per his RTI application and the PIO will supply the complete information to the appellant before the next hearing, failing which penal consequences shall follow. The PIO is again directed to refund the fee of Rs.3100/- deposited by the appellant and to supply the information free of cost.

- 5. After supply of complete information to the appellant, the PIO O/o Director, State Transport, Punjab is also directed to file an affidavit before next hearing duly signed by the PIO and attested by the Notary Public to the effect that the requisite information as available in the official records in AC No.2298 of 2020 has been supplied to the appellant. It be further stated that nothing has been concealed therein and the statement made is correct and authentic. Original affidavit be sent to the appellant and photocopy of the same be sent to the Commission for record.
- 6. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 10.02.2021 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in the office of D.C. Ludhiana. Copies of order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 24.11.2020 Sd/-(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma,(Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab



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Shri Daljit Singh Saini S/o Shri Hakam Singh R/o # 8A, Street No.1, Malhotra Colony, Rupnagar.

.....Appellant

Public Information Officer

O/o Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Rupnagar...

First Appellate Authority

O/o Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Rupnagar..

....Respondents

AC No.1491 of 2020

Present: (i) Shri Daljit Singh Saini, Appellant

(ii) Shri Amandeep Sharma, Junior Engineer O/o E.O. Municipal Council, Rupnagar, on behalf of the PIO.

Versus

ORDER

(Heard through Video Conferencing)

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 03.08.2020 passed by this Bench on the previous date of hearing.
- 2. The case has been heard through V.C. at DC Office, Rupnagar. Shri Daljit Singh Saini, appellant comes present for the hearing. He states that he has not been supplied any information.
- 3. Shri Amandeep Sharma, Junior Engineer, O/o E.O. Municipal Council, Rupnagar comes present to attend the hearing through V.C. on behalf of the PIO.
- 4. On the asking of the Bench, he states that the information will be supplied to the appellant shortly. He further states that amount of penalty is yet to be deposited.
- 5. The Bench on perusal of the case file, observes that neither the PIO has supplied information to the appellant nor has filed reply to the show cause notice nor has deposited the amount of penalty imposed during the hearing dated 30.09.2020. This indifferent and lackadaisical attitude of the PIO is viewed seriously by the Bench.



-2- AC No.1491/2020

- 6. The PIO is directed to supply complete information to the appellant as also to file reply to the show cause notice and after depositing the amount of penalty, the proof of having deposited the amount of penalty be produced before the Bench before the next hearing. He is also directed to come in person on the next date of hearing, failing which further penal consequences shall follow.
- 7. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 10.02.2021 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in the office of D.C. Rupnagar. Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 24.11.2020 Sd/-(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma) State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy to:

The Director, Local Government, Punjab, Municipal Bhavan, Sector-35A, Chandigarh to see how the office of Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Rupnagar adopts casual approach towards the directions of Punjab State Information Commission.



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Shri Manjinder Singh R/o #2469, Sunny Enclave Sector-125, Kharar, District SAS Nagar (Mohali).

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Regional Transport Authority, Jalandhar.

First Appellate Authority-cum-

State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, Sector-17C, Chandigarh.

....Respondents

AC No.1562 of 2020

- Present: (i) Appellant- absent.
 - (ii) None on behalf of the PIO

ORDER

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 30.09.2020 passed by this Bench on the previous date of hearing.
- 2. The case was scheduled to be heard through V.C. at DC Office, Jalandhar. Shri Manjidner Singh, appellant has not comes present for the hearing in person before the Bench at Chandigarh or through V.C.
- 3. Neither the PIO himself has come present to attend the hearing through V.C. nor he has deputed any official to attend the hearing on his behalf. The PIO has, however, sent e.mail i.e. letter dated 20.11.2020 to the Commission clarifying the information sought by the appellant. The PIO has also clarified his position with regard to the show cause notice. The PIO has stated in his letter that as per point No.1 of RTI application, the total number of national permits issued by RTA Jalandhar in October, 2017 was 206. Regarding Point No.2, the PIO states that the appellant was informed vide letter dated 20.01.2020. He was informed that the work of various series is dealt with by different employees and was asked to give specific registration number and class of vehicle to enable them to supply information. The PIO has further stated that as per official record, authorisation of national permit includes the

AC No.1562/2020

PSÍC

detail of name and address of permit holder which amounts to third party information. He has

-2-

further stated that information asked for by the appellant involves creation of special

information which is not permissible under the RTI Act and is not to be supplied under Section

7(9) of the RTI Act. He has also stated that if the appellant wants to see the official records,

he can visit their office on any working day.

4. The Bench observes that the said letter is not addressed to the appellant and

as such, the appellant is contacted on mobile phone to ascertain his version regarding supply

of information, but he states that he is busy in some other court.

The Bench further observes that the PIO has not attended the second

consecutive hearing and has not supplied complete information to the appellant and as such,

has not complied with the directions of the Bench. The indifferent attitude of the PIO is also

viewed adversely.

6. The PIO is now directed to supply complete information to the appellant

before the next date of hearing as also to come in person to attend the hearing through V.C.

on the next date of hearing, failing which penal consequences shall follow.

7. With the above directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on

10.02.2021 at 11.30 AM through V.C. at D.C. Office, Jalandhar. Copies of the order be sent

to the parties.

Chandigarh 24.11.2020 (Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma,(Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN, SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.

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Shri Shiv Narayan Jangra S/o Shri Ramji Dass, Raftaar News Channel Press Complex, Arna Barna Chowk,

.....Appellant

...Respondents

Public Information Officer

O/o PEPSU Road Transport Corporation, Patiala.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o PEPSU Road Transport Corporation,

Patiala

AC No.1621/2020, AC No. 1622/2020 & AC No.1619/2020

<u>Present:</u> (i) Shri Shiv Narayan Jangra, Appellant in person at Chandigarh.

(ii) Shri Amanvir Singh Tiwana, Traffic Manager, PRTC, Patiala/PIO

Versus

ORDER:

Patiala.

(Heard through Video Conferencing)

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 30.09.2020 passed by this Bench on the previous date of hearing.
- 2. The cases have been heard today through Video Conferencing facility at Patiala. The appellant Shri Shiv Narayan Jangra has neither come present to attend the hearing through V.C. nor any intimation has been received from him in this regard.
- 3. Shri Amanvir Singh Tiwana Traffic Manager, PRTC Patiala/PIO attends the hearing through V.C. He states that the matter regarding which the information has been sought by the appellant is under consideration before the Chairman of P.R.T.C. in his capacity as Arbitrator in all the three appeal cases. The matter being pending under arbitration proceedings cannot be shared with the appellant.
- 4. The appellant is contacted on mobile phone. He states that he was called to office of PIO thrice but the official of the PRTC did not entertain him and no records were shown to him. He is apprised of the version of the PIO that matter being under arbitration proceedings before the Chairman, PRTC/Arbitrator, the information cannot be shared.
- 5. The Bench, on perusal of the case file, finds that the PIO has filed written reply to the show cause notice issued on the previous hearing vide which the appellant had





-2- AC No.1621/2020,1622/2020& AC No.1619/2020

been informed vide letter dated 01.02.2020 that the information sought under RTI is confidential matter of PRTC and being related to ongoing arbitration proceedings of M/s Graphisads Pvt. Ltd. and PRTC, the information cannot be provided as per Cluase-8 of RTI Act. It has been further stated that the appellant himself was participating in arbitration proceedings at the time of filing RTI application. The PIO also referred to a decision of Chief Information Commissioner in such cases to the effect that 'once it is established that a certain information requested by an applicant is related to a quasi-judicial proceedings, RTI Act cannot be invoked to access the information related to that proceedings. The PIO has referred to another decision of Chief Information Commissioner in an appeal case wherein the applicant had filed five applications to the Railway Authorities to the effect that though RTI Act allows citizens to seek information other than 10 categories exempted under Section -8, it does not meant that the public authorities are required to entertain all sort of frivolous applications and further that asking for "all the records" regarding various services and categories of staff in the railways only amount to making a mockery of the Act".

- The PIO is directed to file an affidavit before the next hearing duly signed by the PIO and attested by the Notary Public to the effect that the information sought by the appellant relates to quasi-judicial proceedings and the appellant himself was participating in arbitration proceedings at the time of filing RTI applications and thus, cannot be supplied to the appellant. Other submissions made by the PIO in his reply be also mentioned therein. It is be further stated that nothing has been concealed therein and the statement made is correct and authentic. This affidavit be filed separately in all these appeal case. Original copy of affidavit be sent to the appellant and photocopy of the same be sent to the Commission for record.
- 7. In view of the above, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 10.02.2021 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in the office of D.C. Patiala. Copies of order be given to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 24.11.2020 (Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma(Retd.))
State Information Commissioner, Punjab