



Sh Avtar Singh, S/o Lt Sh Diwan Singh,  
VPO Khokhar Faujian,  
Tehsil Batala, Distt Gurdaspur.

... Complainant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,**  
O/o AFSSO,  
Batala, Distt Gurdaspur.

...Respondent

**Complaint Case No. 402 of 2021**

**PRESENT: Sh.Avtar Singh as the Complainant**  
**None the Respondent**

**ORDER:**

The complainant, through an RTI application dated 07.12.2020 has sought information regarding the list of beneficiaries for distributing wheat @Rs.2/- per kg – eligible persons to avail benefits on a single card – order of the Govt for depot holders to distribute wheat at the residence of the sarpanch of the village – order/circular of the Govt to retain the bills by depot holder issued through e-POS and other information as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of AFSSO Batala. The complainant was not provided with the information provided, after which the complainant filed a complaint in the Commission on 31.03.2021.

The case came up for hearing on 15.09.2022 through video conferencing at DAC Gurdaspur. As per the respondent, the information had been supplied to the complainant on 18.08.2021.

As per the complainant, the information is incomplete and has been provided with a delay of more than eight months.

Since this is a complainant case and the complainant has come to the Commission without going to the First Appellate Authority, if the complainant is not satisfied with the provided information, he should go to the First Appellate Authority.

However, there has been an enormous delay of more than eight months in attending to the RTI application, a **show cause was issued to the PIO why penalty should not be imposed under Section 20 of the RTI Act 2005 for not supplying the information within the statutorily prescribed time.** He/she should file an affidavit in this regard. If there are other persons responsible for the delay in providing the information, the PIO was directed to inform such persons of the show cause and direct them to appear before the Commission along with the written replies.

**Hearing dated 28.07.2022:**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Gurdaspur. As per the complainant, the information supplied by the respondent is incomplete.

The respondent-PIO is neither present for the hearing nor has filed a reply to the show cause notice issued during the previous hearing.

Having gone through the RTI application and after going through the facts available on the record, the Commission observes that it is true that complete information has not been supplied to the complainant after 08 months. In view of the loss and detriment suffered by him during this long period in obtaining the information in the instant case, I find full justification in awarding the appellant with a suitable compensation. Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 19(8)(b) of the RTI Act, 2005, a compensation of Rs.5000/- (Rupees five thousand only) is awarded to the complainant, to be paid by the Public Authority via Bank Draft, within 30 days from treasury and confirmation to this effect will be furnished to the Commission.

The PIO Shri Himanshu Kukkar is given last opportunity to file a reply to the show cause notice, failing which, proceedings under section 20 of the RTI Act 2005.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **22.11.2022** at 11.00 AM through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur.

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated: 28.07.2022**

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

**Copy to :**  
**Sh Himanshu Kukkar,**  
**Public Information Officer,**  
**O/o the DFSC, Gurdaspur.**  
**Now posted at Fazilka.**



Sh Nitin Kumar,  
# 290, Basti Baba Khel,  
Jalandhar.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,**  
O/o District Social Justice and Empowerment Officer,  
Jalandhar.

**First Appellate Authority,**  
O/o Director,  
Social Justice and Empowerment Officer,  
Sector-17, Chandigarh.

Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 1428 of 2021**

**PRESENT: Sh.Nitin Kumar as the Appellant**  
**Sh.Jagbir Singh, Tehsil Welfare Officer for the Respondent**

**ORDER:**

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 11.12.2020 has sought information on 07 points regarding the number of applications received for the shagun scheme in the years 2018 & 2019 – applications received directly and through Suvidha Kendra – payments made and pending – reasons for pending cases and other information as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of Director Social Justice and Empowerment Officer, Pb Chandigarh. The appellant was not provided with the information provided after which the appellant filed the first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 23.01.2021, which took no decision on the appeal.

The case came up for hearing on 14.09.2022 through video conferencing at DAC Jalandhar. As per the respondent, the information has been supplied to the appellant.

The appellant claims that he received the information only on 25.08.2021 with a delay of more than eight months. The appellant is also not satisfied with the information on point-3 and stated that the claim of the PIO(that the entire payment to eligible beneficiaries has been made and no payment is pending) is not true since the payment of one of his relatives is still not released.

Hearing both the parties, the PIO is directed to file an affidavit that the entire payment to all eligible beneficiaries (for the years 2018 & 2019 up to March 2021) has been made and no payment is pending.

The PIO was issued a **show cause why penalty should not be not imposed under Section 20 of the RTI Act 2005 for not supplying the information within the statutorily prescribed time.** He/she should file an affidavit in this regard. If there are other persons responsible for the delay in providing the information, the PIO is directed to inform such persons of the show cause and direct them to appear before the Commission along with the written replies.

**Hearing dated 28.07.2022:**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Jalandhar. As per the appellant, the PIO has not provided the affidavit despite the Commission's interim order at the previous hearing.

The respondent present pleaded that the District Welfare Officer, Jalandhar, has already submitted a self-declaration on 22.11.2021, which has been sent to the Commission vide letter dated 22.11.2021, stating therein that under the Shagun scheme, payment to beneficiaries has been made up to March 2021 through DBT Mode, and no payment to the beneficiaries whose cases were recommended for payment by the Tehsil Social Justice & Empowerment Officer, Jalandhar.

Having gone through the case file, the Bench observes that the PIO has been taking the orders of the Commission very casually and has not bothered to file the reply to the show cause notice, which means that the PIO has nothing to say on the matter regarding the delay in providing the information.

PIO, **Shri Lakhwinder Singh, District Welfare Officer, Jalandhar**, is held guilty of default on the above score. Hence, in exercising the powers conferred by Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005, **a penalty to the tune of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only)** is imposed upon the PIO, to be deducted from his salary which is to be deposited in the State Treasury under the relevant head. An attested copy of the receipted challan is also directed to be presented before the Commission on the next date of hearing.

The Bench also finds full justification in awarding the appellant a suitable compensation. Therefore, exercising the powers conferred by Section 19(8)(b) of the RTI Act, 2005, **compensation of Rs.5000/- is awarded to the appellant**, to be paid by the Public Authority from the treasury through a Bank Draft, within 30 days and confirmation to this effect will be furnished to the Commission.

The case is adjourned. To come up on **30.11.2022** at 11.00 AM through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Jalandhar for compliance.

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated:28.07.2022**

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

**Copy to : Shri Lahwinder Singh,**  
**District Welfare Officer, Jalandhar**

**PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**  
**Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,**  
**Sector 16, Chandigarh.**  
**Ph: 0172-2864114, Email: - psicsic30@punjabmail.gov.in**  
**Visit us: - [www.infocommpunjab.com](http://www.infocommpunjab.com)**



Smt Jagroop Kaur, D/o Lt Sh Rajinder Singh,  
VPO Paddi Jagir, Tehsil Phillaur,  
Distt Jalandhar.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,**  
O/o Civil Hospital,  
Jalandhar.

**First Appellate Authority,**  
O/o Civil Hospital,  
Jalandhar.

Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 1525 of 2021**

**PRESENT: Advocate Suteekshan Samrol for the Appellant**  
**None for the Respondent**

**ORDER:**

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 07.02.2020 has sought information regarding the admission form of patient Rajinder Singh s/o Nirmal Singh – a copy of the patient booklet (green booklet) – all test reports of the patient – record of medicines and other medical record and other information as enumerated in the RTI application from the Office of the Civil Hospital Jalandhar. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed the first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 17.03.2020 which took no decision on the appeal. After filing the appeal, the PIO asked the appellant to deposit the requisite fee of Rs.66720/- vide letter dated 18.03.2020, to which the appellant was not satisfied and filed a 2<sup>nd</sup> appeal in the Commission on 23.03.2021.

The case came up for hearing on 14.09.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Sri Jalandhar. The respondent present pleaded that as per the Govt of India notification dated 21.04.2017, the information could not be provided. In this regard, the Commission has also received a letter from the PIO on 03.09.2021, which has been taken on the file of the commission.

Advocate Suteekshan Samrol, representative of the appellant present, pleaded that the appellant was the wife of Rajinder Singh, who died due to HIV+ disease within 2-3 months after marriage with the appellant. Thereafter, the same disease was contracted by the appellant. The representative of the appellant further pleaded that this was not disclosed by the deceased husband to the appellant as well as to her parents before marriage.

Hearing the representative of the appellant, the PIO is directed to bring the requisite information to the Commission's office at Chandigarh. PIO to be present personally.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **30.11.2022** at 11.00 AM through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Jalandhar. The PIO to appear personally at the hearing of the case.

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated: 28.07.2022**

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



Sh Bhagwan Dass, S/o Sh Sadhu Ram,  
R/o Gali NO-2, Angad Nagar,  
Nawanshehar, Distt SBS Nagar.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,**  
O/o State Health Agency, BSNL Building,  
Punjab, Sector-34, Chandigarh.

**First Appellate Authority,**  
O/o CEO, State Health Agency, BSNL Building,  
Punjab, Sector-34, Chandigarh.

...Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 1990 of 2021**

**PRESENT: Sh Bhagwan Dass, the Appellant'**  
**None for the Respondent**

**ORDER:**

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 27.11.2020 has sought information on 08 points regarding a copy of the file containing the record of hiring a legal agency alongwith the work experience of Sweta Mahindru in this legal agency – the list of employees of state health agency including outsourced employees – the waiting list prepared by Baba Farid University for recruitment process of all categories – the order of the competent authority for closing the waiting list and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of State Health Agency, Pb Chandigarh. The appellant was not satisfied with the reply of the PIO dated 24.12.2020 after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 07.01.2021 which took no decision on the appeal.

The case came up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC SBS Nagar. The respondent, alongwith their advocate, was present at Chandigarh and has sought some more time to provide the information.

The appellant was absent, nor was represented.

**Hearing dated 28.07.2022**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahar. As per the appellant, no information has been supplied by the PIO.

The respondent is absent nor represented. Through a letter, the respondent has sought an adjournment. Adjournment granted. The respondent is directed to be present on the next date of hearing and conform with its earlier submission of the commission of providing information as per the provisions of the RTI Act.

The commission has observed that prima facie the information has been denied blankly without going into the details of the information sought, as there are many points in the RTI application which do not qualify as personal information, and should have been provided.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **31.08.2022 at 11.00 AM** through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Nawanshahar. The PIO to appear at Chandigarh.

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated: 28.07.2022**

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



Sh. Jatinder Kumar,  
C/o Sachkhand Mishthan Bhandar,  
Nehru Gate, Nawanshehar.

... Appellant

Versus

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

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

...Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 2718 of 2020**

**PRESENT: Sh.Jatinder Kumar, the Appellant**  
**Sh. Manoj Kumar, Sr. Assistant, for the Respondent**

**ORDER:**

The appellant through an RTI application dated 04.11.2019 has sought information regarding action taken on the application dated 23.09.2019 filed for not releasing the retirement benefits to Sh.Purshotam Kumar, Municipal Engineer till completion of enquiry and other information as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of Principal Secretary Department of Local Govt.Pb Chandigarh. The appellant was not provided with the information after which the appellant filed the first appeal before the first appellate authority on 27.07.2020 which took no decision on the appeal.

The case first came up for hearing on 25.02.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahar. Both the parties were absent.

The appellant vide an email informed that the PIO has not provided the information. The PIO was directed to provide the information within 15 days and send a compliance report to the Commission. The PIO was also directed to explain the reasons for not attending to the RTI application within the time prescribed under the RTI Act.

**On** the date of the last hearing on **24.05.2021**, the appellant was absent and vide an email sought exemption due to illness. The appellant in the said email further informed that the PO has not provided the information.

The respondent was absent on 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive hearing nor has communicated any legitimate reasons for the absence. The PIO also did not comply with the order of the Commission to supply the information.

There has been an enormous delay of one year and six months in attending to the RTI application. The PIO was issued a **show-cause notice under Section 20 of the RTI Act 2005 and directed to file a reply on an affidavit.**

The PIO was again directed to provide the information to the appellant within 10 days of the receipt of the order.

**Appeal Case No. 2718 of 2020**

On hearing on 14.09.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahar/Mohali. As per the appellant, the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent was absent on 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive hearing nor has complied with the order of the Commission to provide the information as well as not filed reply to the show-cause notice.

The PIO vide his reply received in the Commission on 06.07.2021, has informed that since Sh.Purshotam Kumar has not given his consent to disclose the information, the information cannot be provided.

I am not satisfied with the reply of the PIO since there are certain points in the RTI application on which information can be provided. The PIO has blatantly denied the information without application of mind.

The PIO was directed to relook at the RTI application and give a detailed reply on all points rather than one reply fits all since there appear to be certain points in the RTI application which cannot be classified as 3rd party or personal information.

The PIO was given one last opportunity to file a reply to the show cause notice otherwise it will be presumed that the PIO has nothing to say in the matter and the decision will be taken ex-parte.

**Hearing dated 28.07.2022**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahar. The appellant claims that no information has been provided by the respondent.

The respondent present pleaded that the appellant has inspected the record and a certified copy of the identified information has been supplied to appellant on the spot.

Hearing both the parties, the Bench directs the PIO to supply the remaining information within 30 days to the appellant by registered post and a copy of the same be sent to the Commission.

To come up for further hearing on **30.11.2022 at 11.00 AM** through a video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Nawanshahar. The PIO is directed to appear in person at Chandigarh.

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated: 28.07.2022**

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

**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 Bhandhar,  
Nehru Gate, Nawanshehar.

... Appellant

Versus

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

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

...Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 2782 of 2020**

**PRESENT: Sh.Jatinder Kumar as the Appellant  
Sh. Manoj Kumar, Sr. Assistant for the Respondent**

**ORDER:**

The appellant through the RTI application dated 27.11.2019 has sought information regarding show-cause notices issued to Sh.Purshotam Kumar Municipal Engineer (Retired) during his service by different departments – a copy of charge sheet issued – a copy of the order of termination of Sh.Purshotam Kumar – a copy of department enquiry reports and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of Principal Secretary, Local Bodies, Pb Chandigarh. The appellant was not provided with the information after which the appellant filed the first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 27.07.2020 which took no decision on the appeal.

The case was last heard on 24.03.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahar. As per the appellant, the information had not been provided.

As per the respondent, the information was not readily available, the appellant was asked to vide letter dated 16.07.2020 to specify the period of show cause/charge-sheet issued to the Municipal Engineer but the appellant did not specify the same.

During the hearing, the appellant asked that he be provided with the information from the period Purshotam Kumar became a Municipal Engineer till retirement.

The PIO was directed to relook at the RTI application and provide point-wise information to the appellant.

The case last came up for hearing 01.11.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahar. The appellant claimed that the PIO has not supplied the information despite the order of the Commission.

The respondent had submitted a reply to the Commission wherein the PIO has stated that the appellant has sought information of Sh. Purshotam Kumar, Municipal Engineer(Retired) and Sh. Purshotam Kumar has not given his consent to disclose his personal information(on the plea that Sh. Jatinder Kumar was found guilty for misusing the funds during his service and was dismissed and hence Sh. Jatinder Kumar may misuse the record against the department), and hence the sought information cannot be provided.

The PIO was directed to send copies of all the information to the Commission in a sealed envelope so as to enable the Commission to arrive at a final decision.

**Hearing dated 28.07.2022**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahar. The appellant claims that no information has been provided by the respondent.

The respondent present requested for an adjournment.

Earlier order stands. The PIO is given one last opportunity to comply with the earlier order of the Commission.

To come up for further hearing on **30.11.2022 at 11.00 AM** through a video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Nawanshahar. The PIO is directed to appear in person at Chandigarh.

**Chandigarh**  
**Dated: 28.07.2022**

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



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

Appellant

Vs

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

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

...Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 4560 of 2019**

**PRESENT: Sh.Hardeep Singh as the Complainant**  
**Sh. Kamaldeep Singh, for the Respondent**

**ORDER:**

The case was first heard on 23.06.2020. 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 the 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 the next hearing on **18.08.2020**, the respondent informed that after conducting the enquiry, they have written to the higher authority for fixing the responsibility of the person under whose custody the record was found missing. 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 the procedure of the department against the person under whose custody the record was found missing.

On the date of the hearing on 23.09.2020, the respondent pleaded that complete information has been provided to the appellant. The appellant was 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 at the request of the appellant. The PIO was directed to remove the discrepancy and reply to both the points on an affidavit.

On the date of the hearing on **15.03.2021**, the respondent present pleaded that in compliance with the order of the Commission, an affidavit has been provided to the appellant and the appellant has received the same.

With the above, the information was complete. However, since the respondent had not submitted any enquiry report, the PIO was directed to send an enquiry report regarding the missing records to the Commission within 30 days of the receipt of the order.

On the date of the last hearing on **30.06.2021**, the respondent informed that in compliance with the order of the Commission, the enquiry report regarding missing records has been sent to the commission. The Commission received a copy of the enquiry report on 13.05.2021 which was taken on the file of the Commission.

The PIO however, did not send any action taken report on the enquiry report. The respondent informed that they are taking suitable action against the person responsible for the missing record and a charge sheet has been issued. The PIO was directed to send the action taken report on the enquiry report along with a copy of the charge sheet to the Commission.

The appellant was present and pleaded that the letter number 7697 dated 21.09.2020 as mentioned in the affidavit, vide which the PIO claimed to have sent information, does not relate to the information as sought in point-12 of the RTI application since he had sought information regarding notices issued for discontinuation of electric connection in the year 2014, 2015 & 2016.

As per the respondent, no separate notices were issued and the procedure is mentioned in the electricity bill sent from time to time.

The PIO was directed to clarify the above about point-12 (as discussed during the hearing) and send a revised affidavit to the appellant with a copy to the Commission.

The case last came up for hearing 14.09.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahar. As per the appellant, the PIO has not supplied the revised affidavit.

The respondent is absent. Earlier order stands. The PIO was given one last opportunity to comply with the earlier order of the Commission and provide a revised affidavit to the appellant. The PIO is also directed to send action taken on the enquiry report along with a copy of the charge sheet to the commission otherwise the commission will be constrained to take action against the PIO under section 20 of the RTI Act.

**Hearing dated 28.07.2022:**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahar. As per the appellant, revised affidavit has not been provided by the PIO.

The respondent present has requested one more opportunity for filing a revised affidavit.

The Commission takes a serious view of this lapse on the part of respondent for taking the orders of the Commission in a casual manner. Therefore, viewing the non-compliance of the Commission's order, a **Show Cause Notice** under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act 2005, is issued to PIO, SE, PSPCL, Nawanshahar to explain the reasons through a duly attested affidavit as to why a penalty at the rate of Rs.250/- per day subject to maximum of Rs.25000/- be not imposed upon him. He is also afforded an opportunity of personal hearing on the next date of hearing before taking any action. He is further directed to file revised affidavit regarding point-12 before the next date of hearing.

Adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **30.11.2022 at 11.00 AM** through a video conferencing facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, **Nawanshahar.**

Chandigarh  
**Dated 28.07.2022**

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



Sh. Suraj Parkash S/o Sh. Bhagwan Chand  
#162/2, Chabutra Mohalla, Tehsil Banga  
District Nawanshahar.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,**  
O/o Director,  
Social Justice and Minority Department, Punjab,  
SCO 1, Phase 1, SAS Nagar

**First Appellate Authority,**  
O/o Director,  
Social Justice and Minority Department, Punjab,  
SCO 1, Phase 1, SAS Nagar

...Respondent

**Appeal Case No. 1823 of 2021**

**PRESENT:   None for the Appellant**  
**Sh. Baldev Singh for the Respondent**

**ORDER:**

The appellant, through the RTI application dated 29.12.2020 has sought information regarding the details of the vacant posts filled in the general category by de-reserving SC/BC category posts – date of de-reserving the posts – proposal approved by the departments – a copy of the notification to de-reserve the posts and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of Director, Social Justice & Minority Department of Punjab. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed the first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 20.02.2021, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case was last heard on 04.10.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Nawanshahar/Mohali. As per the appellant, the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent present pleaded that since the information relates to Social Welfare Branch-1, (Reservation Cell), Department of Social Justice and Minority, Punjab, Chandigarh, the RTI application has been transferred to them under section 6(3) of the RTI Act vide their letter dated 03.02.2022.

Having gone through the record, the Commission observes that the RTI application filed on 29.12.2020 and the PIO has transferred the RTI application to the concerned PIO only on 03.02.2021 which should have been transferred within five days of its receipt. The Commission has taken a serious view of this and hereby directs the PIO **to show cause why penalty should be imposed under section 20 of the RTI Act for not attending to the RTI application within the statutory prescribed time.** He/she should file an affidavit in this regard. If there are other persons responsible for the delay in providing the information, the PIO is directed to inform such persons of the show cause and direct them to appear before the Commission along with the written replies.

The PIO- social Welfare Department Branch-1, (Reservation Cell) Department of Social Justice and Minority Department, Punjab, Chandigarh is impleaded in the case and directed to look at the RTI application transferred by the PIO O/o Director Social Justice & Minority, Punjab, Mohali vide letter vide letter 03.02.2021 and provide information to the appellant within 15 days of the receipt of the order otherwise the Commission will be constrained to take action against the PIO under Section 20 of the RTI Act. A copy of the RTI application is being attached with the order.

**Hearing dated 28.07.2022:**

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC SBS Nagar. The appellant is absent nor represented.

The respondent present pleaded that point-wise information has been provided to the appellant vide letter dated 02.03.2022.

Having gone through the record, the Commission observes that PIO has not filed the reply to the show cause notice issued to the PIO. One last opportunity is given to the PIO to file the file reply to the show cause notice in the shape of an affidavit before the next date of hearing.

To come up on 30.11.2022 at 11.00AM for further hearing through video conferencing at Deputy Commission's Office, Nawanshahar. PIO to appear at Chandigarh.

**Chandigarh  
Dated 28.07.2022**

**(Khushwant Singh)  
State Information Commissioner**