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Satnam Singh,

s/o Mangal Singh, Village Wasal Mohan Ke, PO Pindi, Tehsil Guruharsahai, District Ferozepur – 152022

Versus

Public Information Officer, o/o SCERT Punjab, Mohali. First Appellate Authority, o/o Director, SCERT Punjab, Mohali.

Appeal Case No. 2760 of 2019

PRESENT: (Appellant) Absent Rama, Lecturer (for the Respondent) 95015-74200

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on **4.9.19** and **10.10.19**)

1. The RTI application is dated **23.1.19** vide which the appellant has sought **information regarding an old complaint by one Pawan Kumar with supporting documents etc.**, as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **9.4.19** and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **30.7.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The case was last heard on **10.10.19**.

2. The appellant is absent without intimation to this Commission. The respondent PIO, represented by Rama, Lecturer, has stated that there has been no communication from the appellant as directed by this Commission at the last hearing of this Appeal Case on 10.10.19.

3. Under the circumstances, this Commission can only presume that the appellant has not been able to find any specific reference to the information he had requested in his RTI application. Notably, the respondent has already stated her inability to locate the aforesaid information (Letter) in the absence a specific date or any other detail.

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4. There is no further cause for action and this appeal case is, herewith, **CLOSED**.

Sd/-(ASIT JOLLY) State Information Commissioner

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Satnam Singh, s/o Mangal Singh, Village Wasal Mohan Ke, PO Pindi, Tehsil Guruharsahai, District Ferozepur – 152 022

Versus

Public Information Officer,
o/o Director Public Instruction (Elementary),
Punjab, Mohali.
First Appellate Authority,
o/o Director Public Instruction (Elementary),
Punjab, Mohali.

Appeal Case No. 2755 of 2019

PRESENT: (Appellant) Absent Ravinder Singh, Senior Assistant (for the Respondent) 81469-46611

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on 4.9.19 and 10.10.19)

1. The RTI application is dated **7.9.18** vide which the appellant has sought <u>information</u> by way of copies of Pawan Kumar's statement, supporting documents and <u>investigation report etc.</u>, as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **14.3.19**, and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **30.7.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The case was last heard on **10.10.19**.

2. The appellant is absent but the respondent PIO, represented by Ravinder Singh, Senior Assistant, stated that attested copies of the information, were sent to the appellant by Registered Post and have been received by him.

3. The appellant has also acknowledged this in an email to the Commission, stating that he received the information on 27.11.19 and no longer wishes to pursue this case.

4. There is no further cause for action and this appeal case is herewith **CLOSED**.

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Rajesh Gupta,

H.No.21/5, Ashapuri, Barewal, Ludhiana – 141012

Versus

Public Information Officer,
o/o Punjab State Power Corporation Limited,
Ludhiana.
First Appellate Authority,
o/o Punjab State Power Corporation Limited,
Ludhiana.

Appeal Case No. 2756 of 2019

PRESENT: (Appellant) Absent (Respondent) Absent

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on 4.9.19 and 10.10.19)

1. The RTI application is dated **27.3.19** vide which the appellant has sought **information pertaining to an idle 66 KV power line etc.**, as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **8.5.19**, and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **30.7.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The case was last heard on **10.10.19**.

2. While the respondent PIO was excused from attending this hearing the appellant is also absent. However, as requested in the last order, he has informed on the Commission on 6.11.19, that he has received the information requested and that he is satisfied with it. A copy of the information was also submitted to this Commission at the last hearing on 10.10.19.

3. There is no further cause for action and this appeal case is herewith **CLOSED**.

Sd/-(ASIT JOLLY) State Information Commissioner

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Ravi Kumar,

s/o Dharmendar Kumar, H.No.107, Near Santpura, Patiala Gate, Sangrur – 148001.

Versus

Public Information Officer, o/o Executive Officer, Nagar Council,Sangrur. First Appellate Authority, o/o Deputy Director Local Government, Patiala.

Appeal Case No. 2758 of 2019

PRESENT: Ravi Kumar (Appellant) 93560-37575 Arjan Dev, Section Officer (for the Respondent) 98153-10653

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on **4.9.19** and **10.10.19**)

1. The RTI application is dated **27.3.19** vide which the appellant has sought **information pertaining to a Municipal Council vehicle (PB13-22-6978)**, as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **95.19** and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **30.7.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The case was last heard on **10.10.19**.

2. Both parties are present. The respondent PIO, represented by Arjan Dev, Section Officer, has brought a copy of the information requested. However, the appellant has pointed out significant deficiencies. The respondent PIO has stated that the vehicle regarding which the appellant has sought information, is in the custody of Babu Nanak Chand Kalra Charitable Trust and all documents pertaining to the vehicle (an ambulance) are with the trust. However, from perusing the documents, it is amply clear that the aforesaid vehicle is officially owned by the Municipal Council, Sangrur.

3. The respondent PIO-Cum-EO, Municipal Council, Sangrur, Ramesh Kumar, is directed to appear in person at the next hearing with all the original record pertaining to this aforesaid vehicle. This must include any document / resolution that supports the respondent's claim that the Municipal Council Sangrur transferred the aforesaid vehicle the aforesaid Trust. Non compliance of these orders could invite penal action under the RTI Act.

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4. Next hearing on 30.1.20 at 11.00 am.

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REGISTERED

Ravi Kumar,

s/o Dharmendar Kumar, H.No.107, Near Santpura, Patiala Gate, Sangrur – 148001.

Versus

Public Information Officer,
o/o Regional Transport Officer,
Sangrur.
First Appellate Authority,
o/o State Transport Commissioner, Punjab,
Chandigarh.

Appeal Case No. 2759 of 2019

PRESENT: Ravi Kumar (Appellant) 93560-37575 (Respondent) Absent

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on **4.919** and **10.10.19**)

1. The RTI application is dated **18.2.19** vide which the appellant has sought information **regarding preferred vehicle registration numbers from 1.1.2012 to 18.2.19**, as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **26.3.19**, and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **30.7.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The case was last heard on **10.10.19**.

2. The respondent PIO is absent for the third time in succession without any intimation to this Commission. This is also despite Show Cause notice issued to him on the last hearing of this appeal case on 10.10.19.

3. This Commission takes a very serious view of the respondent PIO's conduct in continuously ignoring the Commission's order.

Order: Keeping all the facts of the case in mind, this is a fit case to invoke Section 20 of RTI Act and impose a penalty on the respondent PIO Section 20(1), which reads as under:

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"Where the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission, as the case may be, at the time of deciding any complaint or appeal is of the opinion that the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, has, without any reasonable cause, refused to receive an application for information or has not furnished information within the time specified under sub Section (1) of Section 7 or malafidely denied the request for information or knowingly given incorrect, incomplete or misleading information or destroyed information which was the subject of the request or obstructed in any manner in furnishing the information, it shall impose a penalty of 250/- Rupees each day till application is received or information is furnished, so however, the total amount of such penalty shall not exceed Twenty Five Thousand Rupees;

Provided that the Central Public Officer or the State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, shall be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard before any penalty is imposed on him;

Provided further that the burden of proving that he acted reasonably and diligently shall be on the Central Information Officer, as the case may be."

The onus and responsibility lie on the PIO to ensure the transmission of the complete information to the appellant. The PIO, **Gurcharan Singh Sandhu**, Regional Transport Officer, Sangrur is hereby held guilty for not providing the information on time as prescribed under Section 7, which is within 30 days of the receipt of the request and for repeated and willful defiance of the Punjab State Information Commission's orders.

A penalty of Rupees Five Thousand (Rs. 5,000.00) is hereby imposed upon the PIO, Regional Transport Officer, Sangrur, which be deducted from his salary in two monthly installments and deposited in the Punjab Government Treasury under head **"0070-Other Administrative Services-60-other Services-800-Other Receipts-86-Fees Under the Right to Information Act."** The PIO Regional Transport Officer, Sangrur is directed to duly inform the Commission of the compliance of the orders by producing a copy of the challan at the next hearing of this appeal case.

4. A copy of this order be sent to the State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, for information and necessary action.

5. Next hearing on 30.1.20 at 11.00 am.

Sd/-(ASIT JOLLY) State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh 28.11.19

CC: 1. State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh.

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Parmod Kumar Kalia,

H.No. 5775(Duplex), Modern Housing Complex, Manimajra, Chandigarh.

Versus

Public Information Officer, o/o PUDA, Mohali. First Appellate Authority, o/o AGM (HR) PUDA, Mohali

Appeal Case No. 2764 of 2019

PRESENT:

Ramandeep Singh (on behalf of the Appellant's Lawyer) 78885-84722 Daljit Singh Sekhon, APIO-Cum-Superintendent (for the Respondent) 95015-80467 Simranjeet Kaur, Senior Assistant (for the Respondent) 97802-37400

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on **4.9.19** and **10.10.19**)

1. The RTI application is dated **29.10.18** vide which the appellant has sought **information pertaining to assured career promotion benefits in 31 points,** as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **24.12.19**, and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **30.7.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The case was last heard on **10.10.19**.

2. The appellant's Lawyer Karambir Singh Chawla is represented by Proxy Counsel Ramandeep Singh, who has sought one more adjournment stating that there are still some deficiencies in the information furnished.

3. The respondent PIO represented by Daljit Singh Sekhon, APIO-cum-Superintendent and Simranjeet Kaur, Senior Assistant, have submitted that they had invited the appellant for inspection of record as directed by this Commission at the last hearing on 10.10.19 but the appellant failed to show up despite several reminders and telephone calls.

4. This Commission advises the appellant to visit the PIO at the office of PUDA, Mohali, at a mutually convenient date and time and personally inspect the record and point out any deficiency remaining in information that has been furnished.

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5. Next hearing on 30.1.20 at 11.00 am.

Sd/-(ASIT JOLLY) State Information Commissioner

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Charan Kamal Singh,

246 A, New Shampura Colony, Village Shampura, Roopnagar.

Versus

Public Information Officer,

o/o District Education Officer (SE), Roopnagar, **First Appellate Authority,** o/o District Education Officer (SE), Roopnagar,

Appeal Case No. 2778 of 2019

PRESENT:

Jarpreet Singh (for the Appellant / father of the appellant) Harpreet Singh, Clerk (for the Respondent) 98152-26320 Sandeep Bhatt, Clerk (for the Respondent) 96460-09094

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on 5.919 and 11.10.19)

1. The RTI application is dated **20.4.19** vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **4.6.19**, and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **31.7.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The case was last heard on **11.10.19**.

2. Both parties are present. The appellant is represented by his father Jaspreet Singh. The respondent PIO, represented by Harpreet Singh, Clerk and Sandeep Bhatt, Clerk, have submitted that all the information requested in this RTI application has been duly furnished to the appellant at the last hearing on 11.10.19 as well as during the personal visit by the appellant in the office of the District Education Officer, Roopnagar on 21.10.19. The respondent stated that there is no information pending pertaining to this RTI application.

3. The appellant however, continues to insist that there are deficiencies and had, in a letter dated 6.11.19, intimated the Commission that the information sought at point 6, 7, and 8 of his RTI application have not been furnished. However, perusal of the RTI application shows that the point 6 and 7 do not refer to specific documents / record and are in the form of queries or questions. And point 8 (copy of appellant's father's service book) has been given to him.

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4. It has also emerged at this hearing that the appellant has filed a number of RTI applications seeking identical or near-identical information. Some of these are at the Second Appeal stage and being heard by different benches of the State Information Commission. Besides this (AC 2778 of 2019), other appeals are to come up for hearing before State Information Commissioner Sh. Pawan Kumar Singla on 9.12.19 and before State Information Commissioner Lt. Gen. (retd) A.K. Sharma on 16.12.19.

5. In view of the above and in light of appellant's continuing objections, I am of the view that all pending appeal cases by Charan Kamal Singh (who is invariably represented by his father Jaspreet Singh) be clubbed for hearing by the honorable Chief Information Commissioner Sh. Suresh Arora, or by a single / double bench that he deems fit.

6. Further hearings to be notified after the honorable CIC's decision in this matter.

Sd/-(ASIT JOLLY) State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh 28.11.19

CC:

- 1. Sh. Suresh Arora, CIC
- 2. Sh. Pawan Kumar Singla, SIC
- 3. Lt. Gen. A.K. Sharma, SIC
- 4. Sh. Shingara Singh, Deputy Registrar, PSIC

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Gagandeep Singh Janjua,

Village Tura, PO Kumbh, Tehsil Amloh, District Fatehgarh Sahib.

Versus

Public Information Officer,

o/o Tehsildar Banga, District SBS Nagar. **First Appellate Authority**, o/o SDM, Banga, Disrtrict SBS Nagar.

Public Information Officer

o/o Deputy Commissioner Jalandhar

Public Information Officer o/o Deputy Commissioner SBS Nagar (Nawanshahar)

Appeal Case No. 2781 of 2019

PRESENT: (Appellant) Absent Paramjit Kaur, Clerk, O/o Deputy Commissioner, Nawanshaher (for the Respondent) 98152-26320

ORDER: (To be read in continuity with earlier orders on **5.919** and **10.10.19**)

1. The RTI application is dated **1.5.19** vide which the appellant has sought <u>information</u> <u>regarding the allotment of land to a *dera* at village Paddi Mathwali</u>, as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **1.5.19**, and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **31.7.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The case was last heard on **10.10.19**.

2. The appellant is absent without any intimation to this Commission. The respondent PIO, represented by Paramjit Kaur, clerk, office of Deputy Commissioner, Nawanshahar, has submitted a written reply wherein it is stated that the 'old Nawanshahar record' (before it became a district) is still in the custody of the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Jalandhar, which was requested to supply the record pertaining to this RTI application. However, in a letter dated: 26.11.19, Deputy

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Commissioner's office at Jalandhar, wrote back to say that the aforesaid record does not exist in his custody. However, going by the respondent Paramjit Kaur's contention that none of the Old Nawanshahar record has yet been transferred from Jalandhar, it appears that the office of the DC Jalandhar did not make an earnest attempt to locate the record pertaining to village Paddi Mathwali.

3. This Commission directs the PIO, office of Deputy Commissioner, Nawanshaher, to officially transfer this application under Section 6(3) of the RTI Act, to the PIO, office of Deputy Commissioner, Jalandhar, under intimation to this Commission. On such transfer, the PIO office of Deputy Commissioner, Jalandhar, is directed to appear at next hearing in person with a copy of the requested record or a written reply citing legal provisions exempting disclosure.

4. Next hearing on 30.1.20 at 11.00 am.

Sd/-(ASIT JOLLY) State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh 28.11.19

CC: PIO, o/o Deputy Commissioner, Jalandhar.

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REGISTERED

Karnail Singh, # 704 B, Sector-33 B, Chandigarh.

Versus

Public Information Officer,

o/o Director, Department of Finance, Treasury and Accounts Branch, Plot No. 2 A, Sector-33 A, Chandigarh. **First Appellate Authority,** O/o Director, Department of Finance, Treasury and Accounts Branch, Plot No. 2 A, Sector-33 A, Chandigarh.

Appeal Case No. 2818 of 2019

PRESENT: Karnail Singh (Appellant) 94639-15508 Archana, Senior Assistant (for the Respondent) 97792-85272

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier orders on 6.919 and 16.10.19)

1. The RTI application is dated **29.3.19** vide which the appellant has sought **information regarding Departmental Promotion Committees for the post of DCFA etc.**, as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **9.5.19** and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **6.8.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The case was last heard on **16.10.19**.

2. Both parties are present. The respondent PIO represented by Archana, Senior Assistant, has handed over an attested copy of the information that was pending from the last hearing and has been stated that there is no further record in the custody of this Public Authority. The appellant has however, pointed out that certain documents requested has still not been given.

3. Under the circumstances this Commission directs the respondent PIO to submit an Affidavit stating his/her contention that there is no further record pertaining to this RTI application and appeal case in the custody of the Treasury and Accounts Branch of the Department of Finance.

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4. Next hearing on 26.12.19 at 11.00 am.

Sd/-(ASIT JOLLY) State Information Commissioner

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Balvir Raj, s/o Milawa Ram, Ward No. 7, Bhagwanpura Basti, Jalalabad (West), District Fazilka.

Versus

Public Information Officer,
o/o Senior Superintendent of Police,
Fazilka.
First Appellate Authority,
o/o Inspector General of Police, Ferozepur Range,
Ferozepur Cantonment.

Appeal Case No. 2841 of 2019

PRESENT:

(Appellant) Absent Rajinder Kumar, Sub Inspector (for the Respondent) 85588-00861

ORDER:

(To be read in continuity with earlier order on 11.10.19)

1. The RTI application is dated **29.4.19** vide which the appellant has sought **information pertaining to a complaint against one ASI Om Prakash etc.**, as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **25.6.19** and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **6.8.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The case was last heard on **11.10.19**.

2. The appellant is absent without intimation to this Commission. The respondent PIO, represented by Rajinder Kumar, Sub Inspector, has submitted that 9 pages of the requested information sent to the appellant by Registered Post in compliance of this Commission's order on 11.10.19. He has also stated that the appellant Balvir Raj failed to show up for inspection of record on 16.10.19, as directed by this Commission.

3. In view of the fact that the appellant is absent without intimation, this Commission is compelled to presume that he has received the information and satisfied with it.

4. There is no further cause for action and this appeal case is herewith **CLOSED**.

Sd/-(ASIT JOLLY) State Information Commissioner Chandigarh 28.11.19

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REGISTERED

Aruna Devi,

w/o Bharat Bhushan Mattu, # 322, Maskeen Nagar, PO Netaji Nagar, Salem Tabri, Ludhiana.

Versus

Public Information Officer, o/o Estate Officer, GMADA, Mohali. First Appellate Authority, o/o Chief Administrator, GMADA, Mohali.

Appeal Case No. 2842 of 2019

PRESENT: (Appellant) Absent (Respondent) Absent

ORDER: (To be read in continuity with earlier order on **11.10.19**)

1. The RTI application is dated **6.5.19** vide which the appellant has sought <u>information</u> <u>pertaining to her complaint of 6.3.17 in six points</u>, as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (FAA) on **11.6.19**, and second appeal was filed in the Commission on **6.8.19** under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The case was last heard on **11.10.19**.

2. Both parties are absent, but while the appellant has in a letter of 18.11.19 intimated this Commission her inability to be present in today's hearing, the respondent PIO is absent for the second time without intimation. The respondent PIO has also ignored the Commission's orders of 11.10.19 wherein he was directed to submit a pointwise reply to the appellant's RTI application.

3. The respondent PIO is herewith ordered to **SHOW CAUSE** as to why a penalty should not be imposed upon him under Section 20(1) of RTI Act, 2005, for causing wilful delay/denial of the information requested by the appellant as far back as on 6.5.19.

In addition to the written reply, the respondent PIO is also given an opportunity under Section 20(1) provisio there to, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may take note that in case he does not file his written reply and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the

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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*.

4. Next hearing on 30.1.20 at 11.00 am.

Sd/-(ASIT JOLLY) State Information Commissioner