PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

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Sh Navtej Singh, F-9/1934, Shashtri Nagar, Majitha Road, Amritsar.

... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Civil Surgeon, Moga.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Civil Surgeon, Moga.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 1247 of 2021

PRESENT: Sh.Navtej Singh as the Appellant

Dr.Deepika, Assistant Civil Surgeon and Sh.Jatinder Singh FSO for the

Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant through an RTI application dated 25.11.2020 has sought information regarding a copy of the complaint against Jatinder Singh Food Safety Officer having letter number 6829 dated 04.11.2020 along with the status of above the complaint and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of Civil Surgeon Moga. The appellant was denied the information by the PIO vide letter dated 23.12.2020 stating that the information is not in the public interest and it cannot be provided under section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 12.01.2021 which took no decision on the appeal.

The case last came up for hearing on 19.07.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. The appellant informed that the PIO has denied the information stating that the information relates to 3rd party and is not in the public interest. The appellant further informed that the first appellate authority had called him for a hearing on 09.02.2021 but on reaching their office on the given date and time, the first appellate authority was not present and the Assistant Civil Surgeon who was present assured to provide the information. However, the information has still not been provided.

As per the facts on the file, the Commission observed that the PIO has denied the information in an arbitrary manner because in the reply to the appellant the PIO has denied the information on the ground that it can not be provided since it was third party information, which falls under section 11 of the RTI act, but has invoked section 8 1(j) to deny the information.

Sh. Jatinder Singh, Food Safety Officer, about whom the information has been sought was impleaded in the case and directed to appear before the Commission on the next date for further pursuance of the case.

Hearing dated 29.03.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar/Moga. Sh. Jatinder Singh Food Safety Officer is present and informed that he has already given his consent to the office of Civil Surgeon on 01.03.2022 to provide information.

Dr.Deepika Assistant Civil Surgeon informed that the information has been sent to the appellant through a registered post vide letter dated 28.03.2022.

The appellant claims that he has not yet received the information.

Since the information has been sent only on 28.03.2022, if the appellant does not receive the information, the appellant is free to come to the Commission again.

With the above order, the case is **disposed of and closed.**

Chandigarh Dated : 29.03.2022 Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commission

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Sh Ram Murti, S/o Sh Jaswant Rai, Sandhu Colony, Jalandhar Road, Mehta Chowk, Tehsil Baba Bakala Sahib, Distt Amritsar.

... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o SSP, (Rural), Besides Guru Ram Dass Dental College, Mall Mandi, Near 9 Battalion, Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o IGP.

Border Zone, Amritsar.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 1188 of 2021

PRESENT: None for the Appellant

Ms.Navneet Kaur, Inspector for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant through an RTI application dated 29.10.2020 has sought information regarding action taken on the application dated 29.09.2020 filed in Police Station Mehta Amritsar(Rural) and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of SSP Amritsar (Rural). The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 28.12.2020, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case first came up for hearing on 19.07.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. The appellant was absent and vide letter received in the Commission on 22.06.2021 sought exemption.

Having gone through the file, the Commission observed that there is nothing on the file that establishes that the RTI application was replied to.

The PIO was directed to provide whatever action has been taken on the application dated 29.09.2020 along with complete noting/correspondence and send a compliance report to the Commission. The information be provided within 15 days otherwise the commission will be constrained to initiate action against the PIO u/s 20 of the RTI Act.

Hearing dated 29.03.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. The respondent present informed that in compliance of the order of the Commission, the information has been provided to the appellant.

The appellant is absent for 2nd consecutive hearing nor has communicated any discrepancies.

The case is **disposed of and closed** for non-pursuance of the case by the appellant.

Sd/want Sine

(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commission

Chandigarh Dated: 29.03.2022

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Smt Aruna Sachdeva, # 245, Sector-37-A, Chandigarh.

... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,O/o Deputy Commissioner of Police,
Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Commissioner of Police, Amritsar.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 1143 of 2021

PRESENT: None for the Appellant

Sh.Bahadur Singh, SI for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant through an RTI application dated 14.11.2020 has sought information regarding the date of joining (in district cadre police) of Head Constables Jagga Singh and Surjit Singh- their date of promotion as head constables – NOC issued by the previous office before joining district cadre police and other information as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of DCP Amritsar. The appellant was not satisfied with the reply of the PIO dated 18.11.2020 after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 08.12.2020 which took no decision on the appeal. After filing an appeal, the PIO again sent a reply vide letter dated 13.01.2021 stating that the information is personal information and it exempt u/s 8(1)(j).

The case first come up for hearing on 19.07.2021 through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. The appellant claimed that the PIO has not provided the information.

The respondent present pleaded that since the information sought by the appellant is personal information and exempt u/s 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act. and that the reply has been sent again to the appellant vide letter dated 13.01.2021.

Having gone through the record and hearing both the parties, the Commission observed that the information sought in points 1 & 2 i.e the date of joining and date of promotion of the two Head Constables, does not fall in the exempt category of the RTI Act and is clearly public information. It is a common practice for newspapers to publish promotions of officers, passing out parades where new recruits join the police, paramilitary or military services, etc. In fact, the passing out parade in the NDA and the IMA is a matter of great pride and publicity. It is when officers are commissioned into various arms and services of the army.

Hence the Commission did not see points 1& 2 as personal information, thus the PIO was directed to provide the information on points-1 & 2 immediately.

The decision on point-3 will be taken at the next date of the hearing.

Hearing dated 29.03.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. The respondent present informed that the information on points 1 & 2 has been sent to the appellant vide letter dated 21.08.2021 with a copy to the Commission.

The appellant is absent and there is nothing on record that establishes that there is a larger public interest in the disclosure of information on point-3.

The information stands provided. No further course of action is required. The case is disposed of and closed.

Chandigarh Dated: 29.03.2022

Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commission