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Sh Ranjit Singh, S/o Sh Karam Singh, VPO Chanouli, Tehsil Anandpur Sahib, Distt Ropar.

... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Punjab State Social Welfare Board, Sector-35-A, Shop no.16, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority, O O/o Punjab State Social Welfare Board, Sector-35-A, Shop no.16, Chandigarh

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 1557 of 2022

PRESENT: Sh.Ranjit Singh as the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 24.08.2021,, has sought information regarding details of the deduction of house rent allowance alongwith the relevant rules on the basis of which the deduction was made as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of Punjab State Social Welfare Board. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 11.10.2021, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case last came up for hearing on 11.10.2022. Both parties were absent.

There was nothing on record which shows that the RTI application has been attended to. There has been an enormous delay of more than one year in attending to the RTI application. The Commission having taken a serious view of this, issued a **show cause** to the PIO under section 20 of the RTI Act 2005 for not supplying the information within the statutorily prescribed period of time and directed to file reply on an affidavit.

Hearing dated 29.11.2022:

As per the appellant, the PIO has not provided the information.

The respondent is absent on 2nd consecutive hearing, nor has filed a reply to the show cause notice issued on 11.10.2022 nor supplied the information.

Keeping the above-mentioned facts of the case, it is clear that the PIO-Punjab State Social Welfare Board is flouting the spirit of the RTI Act continuously. The PIO is also not appearing before the commission despite various notices from the Commission. As per the information, the PIO, in this case is Sh.Sat Pal, Sr.Assistant and has now been shifted in the office of Social Security Women & Child Department, SCO No.102-103, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh since the office of Punjab State Welfare Board is going to be merged with the office of Social Security Women & Child Department, and the staff of Punjab Social Welfare Board has been shifted in that building.

Appeal Case No. 1557 of 2022

To secure an erring PIO"s presence before the commission, the Information Commission is empowered to issue warrants to the PIO Under Section 18(3) of the RTI Act. A bailable Warrant of the Sh. Sat Pal, PIO-Punjab State Social Welfare Board (now shifted in the office of Social Security Women & Child Department, SCO No.102-103, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh) is hereby issued through Senior Superintendent of Police, Chandigarh for his presence before the Commission on **01.02.2023**.

To come up for further hearing on **09.01.2023** at 11.00 AM at Chandigarh.

Sd/Chandigarh (Khushwant Singh)
Dated: 29.11.2022 State Information Commissioner

CC to:

Sh. Sat Pal, PIO, Punjab State Social Welfare Board (Now in O/o Social Security Women & Child Department) SCO No.102-103, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh

BAILABLE WARRANT OF PRODUCTION BEFORE SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH STATE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER, PUNJAB AT CHANDIGARH

In case:Ranjit Singh V/s PIO-Punjab State Social Welfare Board, Sector 35-A, Chandigarh(now shifted in SCO No.102-103, Sector 34-A,Chandigarh).

APPEAL CASE NO.1557/2022

UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

Next Date of Hearing: 09.01.2023

To

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Chandigarh.

Whereas Sh.Sat Pal, PIO-Punjab State Social Welfare Board, Sector 35-A, Chandigarh(now shifted in SCO No.102-103, Sector 34-A,Chandigarh) has failed to appear before the State Information Commissioner, Punjab despite the issuance of notice/summon in the above mentioned appeal case. Therefore, you are hereby directed to serve this bailable warrant to the Sh.Sat Pal, PIO-Punjab State Social Welfare Board, Sector 35-A, Chandigarh(now shifted in SCO No.102-103, Sector 34-A,Chandigarh) to appear before the undersigned at Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden, Sector 16,Chandigarhon 09.01.2023 at 11.00A.M.

Chandigarh Dated:29.11.2022

(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commissioner

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Dr. Harpreet Singh, Room No.428, 3rd Floor, Adesh Medical College Building, **Village Mohri, Tehsil Shahabad**, District Kurukshetra.(M-97805-66319)

... Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Department of General Surgery, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar State Institute of Medical Sciences, Sector 56-MOHALI.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Department of Medicine, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar State Institute of Medical Sciences, MOHALI.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 2075 of 2022

PRESENT: Dr. Harpreet Singh as the Appellant

Dr.Neha Sharma -PIO for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 16.03.2021 has sought ig the document showing maximum marks given by Sh.Alok Shekhar, Principal Secretary in the interview ,for the post of Processor in the Department of Forensic Medicine conducted on 01.03.2022 at 03.00 PM in the Committee Hall, Punjab Bhawan, Chandigarh from the office of Department of General Surgery, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar State Institute of Medical Sciences, Mohali. The appellant was not satisfied with the reply of the PIO dated 29.03.2022, after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 04.04.2022, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case has come up for hearing today. As per the appellant, the PIO has not supplied the document showing the maximum marks given by Sh.Alok Shekher.

The respondent present pleaded that they have already supplied the information to the appellant vide letter dated 29.03.2022 that the cumulative marks awarded by the selection committee are 35 out of 100. However, the segregate marks from the members of the selection committee are not available in their records.

This bench is not agreeable with the plea of the respondent that only cumulative marks exist; simply because the cumulative figure could not have been achieved without totalling the marks of individual members of the selection committee.

Prima-facie, it appears that the information is being concealed or the current PIO does not have custody of the sought information. Hence I am making the Director Principal-Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Institute of Medical Sciences, the deemed PIO by invoking section 5(5) of the RTI Act.

The Director Principal-Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Medical Sciences is directed to provide this information if it exists in the record. If the information is not in record because it never existed at any stage, an affidavit be filed for the same. If the information existed and is now untraceable, this bench be apprised accordingly.

To come up for further hearing on 14.12.2022 at 11.00 AM.

Sd/-

Chandigarh (Khushwant Singh)
Dated: 29.11.2022 State Information Commissioner

CC to: Director Principal-

Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Institure of Medical Sciences,

Sector 56-Mohali.

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Sh Manjit Singh, S/o Sh Gurcharan Singh, Village Manemajra, Tehsil Chamkaur Sahib, Distt Ropar.

... Appellant

Public Information Officer, O/o BDPO, Roopnagar.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Director, Rural Development & Panchayat, Phase-8, Mohali.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 148 of 2022

PRESENT: Sh.Manjit Singh as the Appellant

Sh.Brij Bhushan Sharma, Panchayat Secretary and Sh.Rama Kant,

Versus

Suptd. O/o BDPO for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 14.08.2021 has sought information on 12 points regarding copies of bills relating to the purchase of dustbins alongwith quotations received during the tenure of Smt.Kulwinder Kaur Sarpanch village Malikpur – number of dustbins installed in village Malikpur – grants received from the Govt alongwith balance grant of her predecessor – amount incurred on filling of village pond with details of machinery used – a copy of approval granted by the Govt for digging the soil – details of CCTV cameras as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of BDPO Ropar. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the first appellate authority on 06.10.2021, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case last came up for hearing on 21.06.2022 through video conferencing at DAC Roopnagar. The respondent had brought nothing.

The appellant was absent nor is represented.

There was nothing on record which shows that the RTI application has been attended to by the PIO within the time prescribed under the RTI Act. Further, there has been an enormous delay of more than one year and ten months in attending to the RTI application. The PIO was issued a **show cause notice under section 20 of the RTI Act 2005** for not supplying the information within the statutorily prescribed period of time. He/she should file an affidavit in this regard and directed to file reply on an affidavit.

The PIO was also directed to inform the detail of PIOs (Name of PIO – period of stay as PIO – present posting) from the date of filing of RTI application. The PIO was again directed to provide information point-wise to the appellant within 15 days of the receipt of the order.

Hearing dated 29.11.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Roopnagar. As per appellant, the PIO has not supplied the complete information.

As per the respondent, the available information has been provided to the appellant on 11.07.2022 and no further information is available in the record. The respondent further informed that since the record was available with the Sarpanch and the concerned Sarpanch was asked to supply the information through a letter, which he did not within time, the information was delayed. The respondent has sent his reply dated 25.11.2022 through email, which has been taken on record.

Appeal Case No. 148 of 2022

Having gone through the RTI application and hearing both parties, the Commission finds that the information stands provided.

However, the respondent has not been able to produce the document and there is nothing on record which shows that the delay has happened at the level of the Sarpanch, nor there is any evidence of the document being transferred under section 5(5), hence the reply dated 25.11.2022 is rejected.

Hence, given the above facts a penalty of **Rs.5,000/-** is imposed on Sh.Brij Bhushan Sharma, Panchayat Secretary-cum-PIO which will be deposited in the Govt. Treasury. The PIO is directed to duly inform the Commission about the compliance of the orders by producing a copy of the challan as evidence of depositing the penalty in the Govt Treasury.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **09.01.2023 at 11.00 AM** at Chandigarh.

Chandigarh Dated: 29.11.2022 Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner

CC to Sh.Brij Bhushan Sharma, Panchayat Secretary, Malikpur

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Sh. Vasudev Garg, Mitwa Street, Water Works Road, MANSA-151505

... Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Principal Secretary,
Department of Health & Family Welfare,
Punjab, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh.

...Respondent

Complaint Case No. 0302 of 2022

PRESENT: Sh. Vasudev Garg as the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The complainant through an RTI application dated 23.02.2022 has sought information regarding action taken on the letters alongwith complaints forwarded by the office of Chief Minister to the Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Pb Chandigarh. The complainant was not provided with the information after which the complainant filed a complaint in the Commission on 24.03.2022.

The case last came up for hearing on 07.07.2022. The complainant was absent. The case was adjourned.

Hearing dated 29.11.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Mansa. As per complainant, the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent is absent nor is represented. There is nothing on record which shows that the RTI application has been attended to within the time prescribed under the RTI Act. There has been an enormous delay of more than ten months in attending to the RTI application. The Commission has taken a serious view of this and hereby directs the PIO to show cause why penalty be not imposed on him under section 20 of the RTI Act 2005 for not supplying the information within the statutorily prescribed period of 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 person(s) of the show cause and direct them to appear before the Commission along with the written replies.

The case is adjourned. To come up for further hearing on **08.02.2023** at 11.00 AM through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Mansa. The PIO to appear at Chandigarh.

Chandigarh Dated: 29.11.2022 Sd/(Khushwant Singh)
State Information Commissioner

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...Appellant

Public Information Officer.

O/o Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority O/o The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

...Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 3621 OF 2021

Versus

PRESENT: None for the Appellant

Sh.Angad Singh, Building Inspector, for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 04.06.2020 has sought information on 16 points regarding the date of submission of ground plana for plot at 33 Joshi Colony by Rita Nayyat or AseemNayyat of Joshi Colony, Amritsar – date of sanction of plan – construction going on is legal or authorised – notice given to the owner for illegal construction – land use if changed – copy of order regarding change of land use – direction for taking action for illegal construction – action taken on Formos Restaurant and other information as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of MC Amritsar. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the first appellate authority on 05.08.2020, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case has already been heard by Sh.HemInderSingh,State Information Commissioner on 16.02.2021, 04.05.2021, 20.07.2021, 15.09.2021 29.09.2021 14.10.2021, 02.11.2021, 17.11.2021 & 06.07.2022.

On the date of hearing on 16.02.2021, the respondent Smt.Kulwinder Kaur was present and informed that the information has already been provided to the appellant.

The appellant claimed that the PIO has not supplied the complete information.

Hearing both the parties, the PIO was directed to file an affidavit from the respondent-PIO duly attested by the Notary Public that the information has been provided and no more information is available in the record.

On the date of hearing on 20.07.2021, the appellant claimed that the affidavit provided by the PIO was not correct and not as per the order of the Commission. The PIO was directed to file a fresh affidavit giving a detailed reply point-wise.

On the date of hearing on 20.09.2021, 14.10.2021, 02.11.2021 &17.11.2021, the respondent was absent nor had complied with the order of the Commission. Viewing the delaying attitude of the respondent-PIO, a show-cause notice was issued to Sh.Narinder Sharma, MTP-cum-PIO on 17.11.2021 with the direction to file a reply on an affidavit.

On the date of last hearing on 06.07.2022 the appellant was absent and vide email sought exemption.

The respondent Smt.Kulwinder Kaur was present who sought some more time to provide a point-wise reply.

APPEAL CASE NO. 3621 OF 2021

Sh.Narinder Sharma-MTP-cum-PIO was continuously absent on the 4th consecutive hearing nor had filed any reply to the show cause.

Since Sh.Narinder Sharma, MTP (now transferred and posted at MC Moga) was the PIO when the RTI application was filed and show cause was used, Sh.Narinder Sharma, MTP-MC Amritsar (now transferred and posted in MC Moga) was 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 a penalty of **Rs.15,000/-** was imposed on the Sh.Narinder Sharma, MTP-MC Amritsar (now transferred and posted at MC Moga) to be deposited in the Govt. Treasury. The PIO was directed to duly inform the Commission about the compliance of the orders by producing a copy of the challan as evidence of depositing the penalty in the Govt Treasury.

The present PIO was again directed to comply with the earlier order of the Commission and provide a fresh affidavit giving a point-wise reply to the appellant within 15 days of the receipt of the order with a copy to the Commission.

Hearing dated 29.11.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Amritsar. The appellant is absent.

The present PIO has sent his reply by way of an affidavit through email which has been taken on record. In the said reply, the PIO has mentioned that he has since joined as MTP on 25.07.2022 and the available information has already been supplied by the earlier PIO on 27.04.2021. The PIO has also mentioned in the reply that no other information else than provided to the appellant upto date related to this RTI application is available in the record.

Sh.Angad Singh, Building Inspector is present and informed that Sh.Narinder Singh, earlier MTP (now posted at MC Moga) is under suspension and his salary/subsistence allowance is being drawn by him from MC Moga.

Sh.Narinder Sharma earlier PIO MC Amritsar has not deposited the penalty amount imposed upon him for not providing the information during his tenure at MC Amritsar and now is posted in MC Moga. As per information by the respondent, he is under suspension and his salarly/subsistence allowance is being drawn from MC Moga.

Keeping the above in view, the Commissioner, MC Moga is hereby directed to deduct Rs.15000/- (as penalty imposed upon him during his tenure at Amritsar) from his salary/subsistence allowance and deposit the same in the Govt. Treasury and send a copy of challan to the Commission as a proof of having deposited the amount in the Govt. Treasury.

To come up for further hearing on **08.02.2023 at 11.00 AM** through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar.

Chandigarh Dated: 06.07.2022 Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner

CC to :Sh.Narinder Sharma, MTP

Municipal Corporation, Moga.

(Earlier MTP-cum-PIO, MC Amritsar)

CC to : Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, - For compliance

Moga.

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Sh Hari Parkash Singh S/o Sh Ujagar Singh,

R/o Village Bhatnura Lubana, Distt Jalandhar.

... Appellant

Public Information Officer, O/o Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Bhatnura Lubana, Distt Jalandhar.

First Appellate Authority, O/o BDPO, Bhogpur, Distt Jalandhar.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 01 of 2022

PRESENT: Sh.Hari Parkash Singh as the Appellant

Sh.Mohit Anand, Panchayat Secretary & Sh.Sarabjit Singh,

Versus

Sarpanch for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 31.08.2021 has sought information on 47 points regarding details of development work done during the tenure of Sh.Sarabjit Singh as Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Bhatnura Lubana, Distt.Jalandhar – List of PLA Number alongwith the mobile number of beneficiaries of old aged pensioners/widow pension/handicap pension – list of new pensioners – list of deceased pension beneficiaries – list of job cards beneficiaries under MNREGA – list of work done under MNREGA scheme – mew job cards and discontinued job cards of beneficiaries under MNREGA – grants received from govt in lie of Dharamshala, junjghar, shamshan ghat etc. as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Bhatnura Lubana Distt.Jalandhar. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the first appellate authority on 29.09.2021, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case last came up for hearing on 21.06.2022 through video conferencing at DAC Jalandhar. The respondent present pleaded that the information was voluminous, however, they have prepared the information and will send the same to the appellant.

The appellant had sought adjournment.

Hearing dated 29.11.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Jalandhar. As per the respondent, the information has been provided to the appellant vide letter dated 22.10.2022.

As per the appellant, the information is incomplete.

Having gone through the RTI application and hearing both the parties, the appellant is directed to point out the discrepancies in writing to the PIO and the PIO is directed to remove the same under intimation to the Commission.

To come up for further hearing on **27.02.2023 at 11.00 AM** through video conference facility available in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Jalandhar.

Sd/Chandigarh (Khushwant Singh)
Dated: 29.11.2022 State Information Commissioner

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... Appellant

Sh Ravinder Singh, S/o Late Sh Bihari Lal, R/o 1/6, Central Town, Jalandhar.

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Asst, Excise & Taxation Commissioner, Jalandhar-1 and 2.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Asst, Excise & Taxation Commissioner, Jalandhar, West-A.

...Respondent

Appeal Case No. 99 of 2022

PRESENT: Sh.Shubham Mehta, advocate for the Appellant

None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through an RTI application dated 25.01.2021 has sought information on 05 points regarding a copy of form -75 of M/s Gaps Traders Liquor contractor for the year from 2017-18 to 2020-21 – a copy of liquor license L-2 & L-14 granted to Gaps Liquor Contractor from 01.04.2015 to 31.12.2021 – Liquor license L granted – permanent address of prop/partner as enumerated in the RTI application concerning the office of Assistant Excise & Taxatiion Commissioner, Jalandhar (West-1). The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the first appellate authority on 20.04.2021, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case last came up for hearing on 21.06.2022 through video conferencing at DAC Jalandhar. The appellant claimed that the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent was absent. There was nothing on record which shows that the RTI application has been attended to by the PIO within the time prescribed under the RTI Act.

Having gone through the RTI application, the PIO was directed to provide;

- Point-1 & 2 - To be decided on the next date of hearing

Point-3 & 4
 Point-5
 The PIO to provide information
 To provide the office addresses

The PIO was also directed to appear on the next date of hearing and explain the reasons for not attending to the RTI application within the time prescribed under the RTI Act.

Hearing dated 29.11.2022:

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Jalandhar. As per counsel for the appellant, the PIO has not supplied the information.

The respondent is absent on 2nd consecutive hearing nor has complied with the order of the Commission to provide the information. There has been an enormous delay of more than one year and ten months in attending to the RTI application. The Commission has taken a serious view of this and hereby directs the PIO to show cause why penalty be not imposed on him under section 20 of the RTI Act 2005 for not supplying the information within the statutorily prescribed period of 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 person(s) of the show cause and direct them to appear before the Commission along with the written replies.

The PIO is again directed to provide the information to the appellant within 15 days of the receipt of the order.

To come up for further hearing on 10.01.2023 at 11.00 AM at Chandigarh.

Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner

Chandigarh Dated: 29.11.2022