# PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden, Sector 16, Chandigarh. Ph: 0172-2864114, Email: - psicsic30@punjabmail.gov.in

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Sh Satnam Singh, S/o Sh Mangal Singh, Village Wasal Mohan Ke, P.O Pindi, Tehsil Guruharsahai, Distt Ferozepur.

Versus

... Appellant

#### **Public Information Officer,**

O/o Director, Social Justice, Empowerment & Minority Deptt, SCO-6, Phase-1, Mohali.

### First Appellate Authority,

O/o Director, Social Justice, Empowerment & Minority Deptt, SCO-6, Phase-1, Mohali.

...Respondent

### APPEAL CASE NO.2338 OF 2021 & 2336 of 2021

PRESENT: None for the Respondent

Sh.Rajinder Singh, Sr.Assistant for the Respondent

ORDER:

Through the RTI application dated 28.12.2020, the appellant has sought information regarding complaint No.281/19 relating to the fake SC certificate and enquiry report thereon sent by Chief Secretary – a copy of the enquiry report alongwith evidence provided by Sh.Bavir Singh, complainant and other information enumerated in the RTI application. The information was sought from the office of Director Social Justice, Empowerment & Minority Department, Pb Mohali. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 15.02.2021, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Ferozepur. The respondent present pleaded that the information had been sent to the appellant vide letter dated 02.12.2021 with a copy to the Commission in the instant case as well as in Appeal case No.2336 of 2021 since the appellant has also filed a similar appeal case No.2336 of 2021 for seeking the same information from the office of Principal Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment & Minority Dept which was transferred to their office.

The Commission has received a copy of the information on 29.03.2022 and taken on record.

The appellant is absent, nor is represented, and neither has communicated any discrepancies.

It is presumed that the appellant has received the information and is satisfied.

Since the information sought in this case and in appeal case No.2336 of 2021 are the same, both the cases are clubbed together.

Since the information has been provided, no further course of action is required. The case is **disposed of and closed**. A copy of the information received from the PIO is being sent to the appellant alongwith the order.

Chandigarh Dated:30.03.2022

Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner

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Sh Swaran Singh, S/o Sh Chanan Singh, # 410, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sector-15-A, Chandigarh.

... Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer,** O/o DC, Ferozepur.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o DC,

Ferozepur. ...Respondent

#### **Appeal Case No. 2515 of 2021**

PRESENT: None for the Respondent None for the Respondent

ORDER:

The appellant, through the RTI application dated 09.03.2021 has sought information regarding old armed license No.237/ADM/FZR/Oct 2009 New license No.DM/FZR/DUP/GHRS/1115/75 – a copy of the complete file and other information concerning the office of DC Ferozepur. The appellant was not provided with the information, after which the appellant filed a first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 15.04.2021, which did not decide on the appeal.

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Ferozepur. Both the parties are absent.

The appellant vide letter received in the office of 21.02.2022 has withdrawn his appeal case.

The case is **closed.** 

Chandigarh Dated:30.03.2022 Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner

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... Complainant

Sh Amarjit Singh, S/o Sh Balvir Singh, R/o VPO Karnana, Teshil Nawanshehar, Distt SBS Nagar.

Versus

**Public Information Officer,** 

O/o SSP,

Faridkot. ...Respondent

Complaint Case No. 656 of 2021

PRESENT: None for the Appellant

Sh.Naresh Kumar, SI for the Respondent

ORDER:

The complainant through the RTI application dated 04.02.2021 has sought information regarding certified copy of people died/committed suicide during the period from 23.03.20220 to 13.07.2020 in District Faridkot during lockdown period of outbreak of Corona Virus – proceedings of section 174 CPC in different police stations as enumerated in the RTI application from the office of SSP Faidkot. The complainant was not provided with the information after which the complainant filed a complaint in the Commission on 27.05.2021.

The case has come up for hearing today through video conferencing at DAC Faridkot/Nawanshahar. Due to technical fault in the VC, hearing could not take place.

The Commission has received a reply of the PIO on 29.10.2021 and 24.02.2022 which has been taken on record. It has been informed by the PIO that since the complainant did not attach his ID proof, the information was not provided and the reply was sent to the complainant vide letter dated 09.02.2021. Thereafter, the information after collecting from different police stations has been sent to the complainant vide letter dated 26.10.2021(90 pages).

The complainant is absent nor has pointed out any discrepancies.

Having gone through the record, the Commission observes that since this is a complainant case and the complainant has come to the Commission under the provision of Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005 in which no directions for providing further information can be given by the Commission.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 12.12.2011 in Civil Appeal Nos.10787-10788 of 2011 (arising out of SLP No.32768-32769/2010) has held that while entertaining a complaint under Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005, the Commissioners have no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for an access to the information.

Since there is an alternative and efficacious remedy of first appeal available to the complainant under section 19(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 which has not been availed in the instant case and the First Appellate Authority has not had the occasion to review the decision of the PIO, as envisaged under the RTI Act by passing a detailed well reasons speaking order.

If, however, the complainant does not feel satisfied with the decision of the First Appellate Authority, he/she will be at liberty to file a Second Appeal before the Commission under Section 19(3) of the RTI Act.,2005.

#### Complaint Case No. 656 of 2021

In view of the observations noted above, the instant case is remanded back to the concerned First Appellate Authority-cum-Civil Surgeon, Ludhiana with a copy of RTI application for their ready reference and is also directed to call the complainant within 15 days of the receipt of the order, provide the information/reply pertaining to this RTI application. A compliance report of the same be sent to the Commission.

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

Chandigarh Dated:30.03.2022 Sd/-(Khushwant Singh) State Information Commissioner