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Helpline NO.0172-2864100 (10.00 AM to 04.00 PM on working days)

Shri Jasbir Singh R/o Village Bolapur Jhabewal, Post Office Ramgarh, District Ludhiana

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Sahnewal, District Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority

O/o Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Sahnewal, District Ludhiana.

....Respondents

AC No.1539 of 2020

Present: None

ORDER

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 03.08.2020 passed by this Bench on the previous date of hearing.
- 2. The case was scheduled to be heard today through V.C. at DC Office, Ludhiana. However, a telephonic message was received from the from the PIO Shri Kulbir Singh Brar, Executive Officer, M.C. Sahnewal that he will not visit DC Office, Ludhiana for the hearing through V.C. as the hearing will not be held due to a Corona case found in D.C. Office, Ludhiana. Similar telephonic message has been received from the appellant.
- 3. The appellant has informed vide his letter dated 05.09.2020 as also through telephonic message that in spite of a lapse of 13 months, he has not been provided any information by the PIO.
- 4. On perusal of the relevant case file, the Bench observes that the PIO has supplied information to the appellant vide letter dated 05.09.2019 and again vide letter dated 07.08.2020 by registered post, whereas the appellant has stated that no information has been received by him so far.

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-2- <u>AC No.1539/2020</u>

- 5. In view of the position as emerges above, the Bench directs the PIO to call the appellant before the next hearing on any working day to allow him access to the relevant official record to identify the information required by him. The PIO will provide him the documents so identified by the appellant after inspecting the record.
- 6. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 24.11.2020 at 11.30 AM through V.C in the office of DC Ludhiana. Copies of order be given to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 30.09.2020

Sd/-(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma,(Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab



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Shri Daljit Singh Saini S/o Shri Hakam Singh R/o # 8A, Street No.1, Malhotra Colony, Rupnagar.

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Rupnagar..

First Appellate Authority

O/o Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Rupnagar..

....Respondents

AC No.1491 of 2020

Present: (i) Shri Daljit Singh Saini, Appellant

(ii) None

ORDER

(Heard through Video Conferencing)

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 03.08.2020 passed by this Bench on the previous date of hearing.
- 2. The case has been heard through V.C. at DC Office, Rupnagar. Shri Daljit Singh Saini, appellant comes present for the hearing. He states that he has not been supplied any information.
- 3. Neither the PIO himself has come present to attend the hearing through V.C. nor he has deputed any official to attend the hearing on his behalf.
- 4. The Bench observes that the RTI application of the appellant is dated 07.02.2020 and First Appeal has been filed by him on 08.04.2020. But no information has been supplied to the appellant yet. The PIO was also absent on the previous hearing and as such, was issued show cause notice. The PIO has not bothered to file reply to the show cause nor has supplied the information to the appellant even after two months have elapsed since the previous hearing. Attempts were also made to contact Shri Bhajan Chand, Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Rupnagar/PIO on mobile phone repeatedly, but he did not respond. The PIO has also failed to appear in person before the Bench today. As such, the directions of the Bench have not been complied with.



-2- <u>AC No.1491/2020</u>

5. The facts of the case prove beyond any doubt that the PIO/Respondent does not deserve any leniency. Hence, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, a penalty to the tune of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) is imposed upon PIO, O/o The Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Rupnagar, to be deducted from his salary, which is to be deposited in the State Treasury under the relevant head. The Drawing & Disbursing Officer concerned is directed to deduct the amount of penalty of Rs.5,000/- from the salary of the PIO and deposit the same in State Treasury in the following Head of Account and to report its compliance to the Commission before the next hearing:-

- 0070-Other Administrative Services 60-Other Services-
- -0800-Other Receipts- 86-Fee under the RTI Act, 2005.
- 6. The PIO is also directed to supply complete information to the appellant before the next date of hearing as also to come in person on the next date of hearing.
- 7. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 24.11.2020 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in the office of D.C. Rupnagar. Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 30.09.2020 Sd/-(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma) State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy to (By Regd.Post):

Public Information Officer, O/o Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Rupnagar.



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Shri Manjit Singh S/o Shri Gurcharan Singh R/o Village Manemajra, Tehsil Chamkaur Sahib, District Rupnagar.

.....Appellant

Public Information Officer

O/o The Director, State Transport, Punjab, Sector-17, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority

O/o The Director, State Transport, Punjab, Sector-17, Chandigarh.

....Respondents

AC No.2300 of 2020

- <u>Present:</u> (i) Shri Manjit Singh, Appellant in person before the Bench.
 - (ii) Shri Darshan Singh, Senior Assistant, O/o Director, State Transport, Punjab, Chandigarh, in person before the Bench.

Versus

ORDER

- 1. The RTI application is dated 12.03.2020 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) on 29.06.2020 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 25.08.2020 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act).
- 2. The case was scheduled to be heard through Video Conferencing facility at Rupnagar. However, since both the appellant Shri Manjit Singh and representative of the PIO Shri Darshan Singh have come present in person before the Bench, they have been heard in person in Commission's office at Chandigarh.
- 3. Shri Darshan Singh, the representative of the PIO states that the information has been supplied to the appellant vide their letter dated 31.08.2020.
- 4. On the asking of the Bench, the appellant states that the information as asked for by him vide his RTI application has not been supplied and whatever information has



AC No.2300/2020

been given, is not in consonance with his RTI application. He further states that he had pointed out certain deficiencies, but he has not received any response from the PIO thereafter.

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- 5. The representative of the PIO thereafter stated that in case the appellant is prepared to visit the office of PIO today, he will ensure that the complete information is made available to him today itself. Accordingly, the appellant is advised to visit office of PIO today and official records be made available to him, he can identify the information as per his requirement. The PIO will provide him the documents so identified by the appellant.
- 6. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on 24.11.2020 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in the office of D.C. Rupnagar. Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

Chandigarh 30.09.2020 Sd/-(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma(Retd.)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab



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Shri Manjinder Singh R/o #2469, Sunny Enclave Sector-125, Kharar, District SAS Nagar (Mohali).

.....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Regional Transport Authority, Jalandhar.

First Appellate Authority-cum-

State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, Sector-17C, Chandigarh.

....Respondents

AC No.1562 of 2020

- Present: (i) Shri Manjinder Singh, Appellant in person before the Bench.
 - (ii) None on behalf of the PIO

ORDER

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 03.08.2020 passed by this Bench on the previous date of hearing.
- 2. The case was scheduled to be heard through V.C. at DC Office, Jalandhar. Shri Manjidner Singh, appellant comes present for the hearing in person before the Bench at Chandigarh. He states that he has not been supplied any information.
- 3. Neither the PIO himself has come present to attend the hearing through V.C. nor he has deputed any official to attend the hearing on his behalf.
- 4. The appellant is shown letter dated 29.07.2020 received through e.mail in the Commission, wherein it has been stated that the information on Point no.1 has been supplied to the appellant vide letter dated 20.01.2020 and regarding Pont No.2, the appellant was asked to intimate the detail of vehicles about which the record is required by him. On perusing the letter, the appellant states that he is not satisfied with the information as he had sought registration number of the vehicles given national permits and not the number of

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-2-

AC No.1562/2020

national permits and similarly, the detail of registration numbers transferred to the office of R.T.A. Jalandhar and as such, the information supplied is partial.

- 4. Since the Mobile No. of the PIO was not available, repeated attempts were made to contact the Secretary, R.T.A. Jalandhar Shri Balwinder Singh to apprise him of the contention of the appellant, but he did not respond.
- 5. The Public Information Officer O/o Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Jalandhar is issued show cause notice to explain his absence for hearing through V.C. and to explain as to why action should not be taken against him for not complying with the directions of Bench and also as to why penalty should not be imposed in the instant case for not supplying the complete information to the appellant. The PIO is also directed to file a written reply to the show cause notice as to why the appellant should not be compensated for the mental harassment suffered by him in getting the information.
- 6. In addition to the written reply, PIO is hereby given an opportunity u/s 20(1) proviso thereto for a personal hearing before the imposition of such a penalty, on the next date of hearing. He may take note that in case he does not file the written reply and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date fixed, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission shall proceed to take further proceeding against him ex-parte.
- 7. The PIO is directed to supply complete information to the appellant before the next hearing, failing which penal consequences shall follow.
- 8. With the above directions, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on **24.11..2020 at 11.30 AM through V.C. at D.C. Office, Jalandhar.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

Chandigarh 30.09.2020

(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma,(Retd)) State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy to(By regd.Post):

Public Information Officer O/o Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Jalandhar.

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN, SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.

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Shri Shiv Narayan Jangra S/o Shri Ramji Dass, Raftaar News Channel Press Complex, Arna Barna Chowk, Patiala.

.....Appellant

...Respondents

Public Information Officer

O/o PEPSU Road Transport Corporation, Patiala.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o PEPSU Road Transport Corporation,

Patiala.

AC No.1621/2020 AC No. 1622/2020 Along with AC No.1619/2020

Versus

<u>Present:</u> (i) Shri Shiv Narayan Jangra, Appellant in person at Chandigarh.

(ii) Shri Narinder Kumar, Senior Assistant, O/o PRTC, Patiala/APIO

ORDER:

(Heard through Video Conferencing)

- 1. This order may be read with reference to the order dated 03.08.2020 passed by this Bench on the previous date of hearing.
- 2. The cases have been heard through Video Conferencing facility at Patiala. The appellant Shri Shiv Narayan Jangra comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh. He states that he has not received any information in any appeal case.
- 3. Shri Narinder Kumar, Senior Assistant/APIO attends the hearing through V.C. on behalf of the PIO. He states that information from some of the Depots is still awaited. The same will be provided on compilation after receipt of the same from all the Depots.
- 4. The Bench observes that Shri Amanvir Singh Tiwana, Traffic Manager, PRTC, Patiala/PIO had attended the previous hearing and had stated that the information as available in official records has been provided to the appellant. He had also observed that similar information had been sought by the appellant in AC No.4102/2019 which has already been disposed off by the Hon'ble Bench. However, the appellant had denied having received any information. Due to different versions of the appellant and the PIO, the Bench had

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-2-AC No.1621/2020,1622/2020& AC No.1619/2020

directed that matter be resolved and complete information be provided to the appellant before

next hearing.

5. Today, from the version of the APIO Shri Narinder Kumar, the Bench

observes that the PIO is till in the process of compiling the information whereas he had

assured to supply the complete information and resolving the matter. The PIO, O/o Pepsu

Road Transport Corporation, HO, Patiala is now issued show cause notice to explain his

absence for hearing through V.C. and to explain as to why action should not be taken against

him for not complying with the directions of Bench and also as to why penalty should not be

imposed in the instant case for not supplying the complete information to the appellant. The

PIO is also directed to file a written reply to the show cause notice as to why the appellant

should not be compensated for the mental harassment suffered by him in getting the

information.

6. In addition to the written reply, PIO is hereby given an opportunity u/s 20(1)

proviso thereto for a personal hearing before the imposition of such a penalty, on the next

date of hearing. He may take note that in case he does not file the written reply and does not

avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date fixed, it will be presumed

that he has nothing to say and the Commission shall proceed to take further proceeding

against him ex-parte.

7. The PIO is directed to call the appellant to his office on any working day and

allow him access to the relevant record. The appellant will identify the information he needs.

The documents so identified will be provide to the appellant before the next hearing.

8. In view of the above, the matter is adjourned. To come up for hearing on

24.11.2020 at 11.30 AM through V.C. in the office of D.C. Patiala. Copies of order be given

to the concerned parties.

Sd/-

Chandigarh 30.09.2020

(Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma) State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy to (By Regd.Post): PIO,O/o Pepsu Road Transport Corporation, HO, Patiala