

**PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION  
RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,  
SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.**

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



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

.....Appellant

Versus

**Public Information Officer**

O/o PEPSU Road Transport Corporation,  
(PRTC), Patiala.

**First Appellate Authority**

O/o PEPSU Road Transport Corporation,  
(PRTC), Patiala.

....Respondents

**AC No.1621/2020, AC No.1622/2020 & AC No.1619/2020**

**Present:**

- (i) Shri Shiv Narayan Jangra, Appellant in person before the Bench.
- (ii) Shri Amanvir Singh Tiwana, Traffic Manager/PIO, PRTC, Patiala.

**ORDER:**

1. The above said appeal cases were earlier heard by the Bench of Ld. State Information Commissioner, Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma and as per observations made in the order dated 29.06.2021, the aforesaid appeal cases have been referred to a larger Bench comprising Ld. State Information Commissioner, Lt Gen Ajae Kumar Sharma and Ld. State Information Commissioner, Shri Maninder Singh Patti vide order No.PSIC/Legal/DB/2021/233 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2021.

2. In pursuance of the order dated 22.07.2021, a notice dated 03.08.2021 was issued to the parties for hearing before the Division Bench on 31.08.2021 at 01.30 PM in Commission's office at Chandigarh. Accordingly, these appeal cases have been heard today.

3. Shri Shiv Narayan Jangra, appellant comes present to attend the hearing in person before the Bench. He states that the PIO is misguiding the Hon'ble Commission that for seeking same information, the appellant has filed different RTI applications. He further

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

observes that at different times, he has been asked to deposit different amounts of money for the information sought but nothing has been made available. He further adds that the Arbitration case on the basis of which information is being denied by the PIO is for the period 14.10.2013 to 17.06.2013 whereas the RTI application relates to the period 01.01.2011 to 31.10.2019. Hence, denial of information is not justified and that he has been supplied incomplete information. He further states that to deny information on the basis of arbitration proceedings pending is not applicable to his appeal cases as he had withdrawn himself from the arbitration proceedings of which he was a part earlier.

4. Shri Amanvir Singh Tiwana, PIO O/o M.D. PRTC, Patiala comes present to attend the hearing before the Bench in person. On enquiring from the PIO as to whether any money was deposited by the appellant in the instant appeal cases, he states that the money was demanded for supply of hard copies of the information in other appeal cases and not in the instant appeal cases. He states that the appellant had earlier been supplied information in different appeal cases AC No.4102/20219 and 4103/2019 and an affidavit to this effect was also filed in these two appeal cases. On the basis of same, the said appeal cases had been disposed off by this Hon'ble Commission. The information sought in AC No.1621, 1622 & 1619 of 2020 has been denied to him on the grounds that the matter regarding which the appellant seeks information, is under consideration before the Chairman, PRTC in his capacity as Arbitrator in matter of the firm M/s Graphic Ads Pvt. Ltd. and that the arbitration proceedings are quasi-judicial proceedings in which the appellant had himself been participating. Moreover, the information now sought is similar to what has been provided in

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appeal cases No.4102/2019 and 4103/2019 which have been disposed off. The PIO also makes reference to the decision dated 18.09.2017 of the Central Information Commission in an appeal case No.CIC/AT/A/2006/00586 to the effect that once it is established to a quasi judicial proceedings, RTI Act cannot be invoked to access the information to the proceedings. In spite of that, their office supplied information to the appellant in compliance with the order of the Hon'ble Commission and that too, after collating details from different depots in a format designed with the consent of appellant who was called to office of PIO as per directions of the Hon'ble Commission. The PIO also refers to a decision of Central Information Commission in Appeal Case No.CIC/OK/A/2006/00268-272 dated 29.12.2006 in which case the appellant had filed five applications to the Railway Authorities asking for "all records" regarding various services and categories of staff of Railways and reproduced the decision as under:-

"The CIC observed that though the RTI Act allows citizens to seek any information other than the 10 categories exempted under Section 8, it does not mean that the public authorities are required to entertain all sort of frivolous applications. The CIC held that asking for "all records" regarding various services and categories of staff in the Railways only amount to making a mockery of the Act".

5. The appeal case are further deliberated upon at length. The Bench on perusal of the RTI applications in AC No.4102/2019 & AC No.4103/2019 observes that the information sought relates to the period 01.01.2010 to 31.07.2019, whereas the information

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sought in the instant appeal cases i.e. AC No.1621, 1622 & 1619 of 2020 relates to the period 01.11.2011 to 31.10.2019 and clarifies to the appellant that the information already supplied in AC No.4102 & 4103 of 2019 also covers the period for which the information has now been sought by the appellant. On the asking of the Bench, whether the appellant had deposited any amount as demanded by the PIO, he denies the same. He is asked to clarify as to whether at present, he is pursuing the arbitration case mentioned by the PIO, he states that he had represented in that case earlier but later on, he had withdrawn himself from the proceedings in the case. Upon this, the PIO makes mention of the dates on which he had been representing the firm. The Bench apprises the appellant that he is talking about demand of money for provision of information which relates to the other appeal cases which are not listed before this Bench today and thus, he is misleading the Court. When this query is put to the appellant, he tries to show an emotional outburst and states that he does not want to pursue the appeal cases any further before this Bench anymore as justice is not being done and wants to withdraw the appeal cases. In view of this statement made by the appellant, the Bench shows its inclination to dispose off the instant appeal cases. However, he expresses an apology on his statement during further discussions before the Bench again. A request was then made by the appellant to decide the case on its merits. The Bench accedes to the request of the appellant.

6. In view of this, the Bench enquires from the PIO as to within how much time, the arbitration proceedings will be finalized by the Arbitrator. At this, he states that the said

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proceedings are in final stages of completion and he expects that these arbitration proceedings may be finalized within two months. He assures the Bench that as soon as the said proceedings are finalized, he will supply complete information to the appellant.

7. The Bench directs the PIO to supply information to the appellant as assured before the Division Bench, by e.mail as also by hand to the appellant and also to send an intimation to the Bench to this effect before the next hearing.

8. With the aforesaid directions, the matter is adjourned. **To come up for hearing on 20.12.2021 at 01.30 PM before the Bench in Commission's office at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the concerned parties.

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

Sd/-  
(Maninder Singh Patti)  
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Chandigarh  
31.08.2021