

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864110, Helpline 0172-2864100

Email: pcic20@punjabmail.gov.in Visit us: www.infocommpunjab.com

Whatsapp No. 62848-20189



Shri Bakhshish Singh, S/o Shri Balwinder Singh,
Village Jandwala Kharta,
Tehsil & Distt. Fazilka.

..... Appellant

Vs

Sh. Harpreet Singh

(Regd.) Public Information Officer-cum-

Block Development and Panchayat Officer,
Fazilka.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o District Development and Panchayat Officer,
Fazilka.

.....Respondent

Appeal Case No. 4001 of 2020

(Video Conference/Telephone Proceedings)

Present:- Shri Bakhshish Singh, appellant on telephone.

Sh. Sandeep Kumar, APO NAREGA on behalf of the PIO, O/o Block
Development and Panchayat Officer, Fazilka. **9646698926**

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 5.4.2022.

2. The appellant states that the respondent-Public Information Officer may be directed to supply the complete information in this case. However, the representative of the respondents has not given any satisfactory reply.

3. The brief of the case is that the appellant filed the RTI application on 27.7.2020 to the Public Information Officer o/o the Block Development and Panchayats Officer Fazilka and after non receipt of the information the appellant filed the 1st appeal before the First Appellate Authority. Aggrieved, the appellant filed the 2nd appeal on 10.12.2020. Accordingly, a notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 16.3.2021. Since then the case is being adjourned due to non appearance of the respondent i.e. on 16.3.2021, 1.6.2021, 27.7.2021, 15.9.2021, 1.11.2021, 17.11.2021, 15.12.2021 and on 31.1.2022.

4. Also due to non appearance of the respondent a compensation amounting to Rs.10000/- has already been awarded in favour of the appellant and the penalty amounting to Rs.25000/- has already been imposed upon the Public Information Officer-

Contd..p/2

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-2-

Appeal Case No. 4001 of 2020

cum-Panchayat Secretary o/o the Block Development and Panchayats Officer. Till date, no information has been supplied to the appellant.

5. It is also a fact that Sh. Lakhbir Singh, Block Development and Panchayats Officer was contacted by the office for the hearing on 5.4.2022 and also sent him a copy of the last order. He was also assured that he will attend the hearing on 5.4.2022 but he remained absent and also nobody was present on his behalf.

6. The representative of the respondents brought to the notice that he is APO, MAGNREGA and the information has to be supplied by the concerned GRS. He further submits that both APO and GRS are working under the Block Development and Panchayats Officer. He also requested for the adjournment of the case to supply the complete information and to pay the compensation.

7. The penalty has been imposed upon the Public Information Officer-cum-Panchayat Secretary o/o Block Development and Panchayats Officer but as per the facts brought to the notice by the APO, MAGNREGA the complete information is in the custody of the GRS/APO. Therefore, as per the submissions made by the representative of the respondents and record available in the case file, the order of penalty imposed upon the Public Information Officer-cum-Panchayat Secretary o/o Block Development and Panchayats Officer amounting to Rs.25,000/- is hereby withdrawn.

8. But it is also a fact that till date no information has been supplied to the appellant. Keeping in view the attitude in dealing with the RTI application by the respondent in a casual manner, the **compensation in this case is enhanced from Rs.10000/- to Rs.15000/-**. The Public Information Officer-cum-Block Development and Panchayats Officer is directed to pay the compensation to the appellant before the next date of hearing out of the State Exchequer. He is also directed to supply the complete information in this case before the next date of hearing failing which the penalty provisions will be invoked on the next date of hearing and the disciplinary proceedings will also be recommended.

Contd..p/3

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-3-

Appeal Case No. 4001 of 2020

9. It is also clarified that in case of non compliance of this order before the next date of hearing the **Director, Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt., Pb. will be bound to remain present.** Accordingly, a copy of this order is being sent to the Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt., Pb. and Director, Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt., Pb. for compliance of this order.

10. To come up on 4.7.2022 at 12.30 PM at Chandigarh.

Dated: 7.6.2022

sd
(Suresh Arora)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.

CC

Smt. Seema Jain, IAS
Addl. Chief Secretary,
Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt., Pb.
Vikas Bhawan, Sector 62, Mohali

Sh. Gurpreet Singh Khaira, IAS
Director,
Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt., Pb.
Vikas Bhawan, Sector 62, Mohali