

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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

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Whatsapp No. 62848-20189



Sh. Pal Singh, Advocate 9814187521
Chamber No. 32 B, Judicial Court complex,
Rupnagar.

....Appellant

vs

Public Information Officer
o/o Block Development and Panchayats Officer,
Rupnagar.

First Appellate Authority,
o/o District Development and Panchayats Officer,
Rupnagar.

....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 2853 of 2020

ORDER

This order was 'RESERVED' on 9.3.2021 for pronouncement.

2. The appellant has sought the following information from the Public Information Officer o/o the Block Development and Panchayats Officer vide RTI application dated 6.1.2020 but the Public Information Officer o/o the Block Development and Panchayats Officer further transferred the RTI application to the concerned Panchayat Secretary being the custodian of the record on 9.1.2020:-

“ਪਿੰਡ ਕਟਲੀ ਤਹਿ ਬਲਾਕ ਤੇ ਜਿਲਾ ਰੂਪਨਗਰ ਦੀਆਂ

1. ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਰਜਿਸਟਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ ਜਨਵਰੀ 2010 ਤੋਂ ਜਨਵਰੀ 2020 ਤੱਕ
2. ਕੈਸ਼ ਬੁਕ ਜਨਵਰੀ 2019 ਤੋਂ ਜਨਵਰੀ 2020 ਤੱਕ ਦੀਆਂ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ
3. ਖਰਚ ਰਸੀਦ (vouchers) ਦੀਆਂ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ ਜਨਵਰੀ 2019 ਤੋਂ ਜਨਵਰੀ 2020 ਤੱਕ”

3. The appellant filed the first appeal before the First Appellate Authority on 3.3.2020. But due to non satisfaction, the appellant preferred the second appeal before the Commission on 29.9.2020 and the case was fixed for hearing on 16.12.2020.

4. During the hearing on 16.12.2020 the respondents states that the appellant is lawyer, hence, he is not eligible to seek the information under the RTI Act, 2005. After consideration of the request of the appellant, the directions were issued to the respondent-Public Information Officer to file the reply/supply the sought information as any citizen of India is eligible to seek information and the case was adjourned.

5. During the hearing on 12.1.2021, the respondent-Public Information Officer assured that the information will be supplied to the appellant within a week and the case was adjourned to 27.1.2021.

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6. During the hearing on 27.1.2021, the respondent-Public Information Officer stated that the information comprising 121 pages were sent to the appellant but the same has been returned as undelivered and the respondent-Public Information Officer handed over the information during the course of hearing with an advise to go through the same and pointed out deficiency, if any and the case was adjourned to 9.3.2021.

7. During the hearing on 9.3.2021, the appellant showed his satisfaction with the information so supplied by the respondent-Public Information Officer but he requested to penalize the respondent-Public Information Officer regarding the delay occurred in supply of information.

8. It is also a fact that during March, 2020 due to Corona Virus - Covid 19 pandemic outbreak the Government imposed the lock down and thereafter, the instructions issued by the Government to work in the offices with 50:50 ratio of the staff. More so, when the information was sent to the appellant through registered post, it returned as undelivered. Also, it is a fact on record that no deficiency has been pointed out by the appellant.

9. Keeping in view the above, the Commission observes that no further action is required to be taken in this case. Hence, the case is disposed of and closed.

Dated: 23.3.2021

Sd/
(Suresh Arora)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.