

**PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**  
Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,  
Sector 16, Chandigarh.  
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Sh. Ravinder Kataria,  
# 64, New Sant Fateh Singh Nagar,  
Dugri Road, Ludhiana (Punjab)

....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,  
O/o The Secretary,  
Regional Transport Authority (RTA),  
Bathinda (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority,  
O/o The State Transport Commissioner,  
Sector 17, Chandigarh

...Respondents

**Appeal Case No. 2799 of 2019**

Present : Sh. Ravinder Kataria on behalf of the appellant.  
None on behalf of the respondent.

**ORDER**

This order may be read with reference to an earlier order dated 26.07.2023, vide which the case was fixed for hearing on 05.09.2023 but the hearing could not held. Thereafter the case was allocated to the Bench of the undersigned, which is fixed for hearing today i. e. 27.03.2024.

3. The appellant submits that the directions may be issued to the PIO to supply complete information in this case.

4. After perusal of the case-file, it is ascertained that the appellant was directed to establish the 'larger public interest' involved in seeking the voluminous information relating to 'third party' information but no submissions have been received from him. Thereafter, the appellant requested for an adjournment in this case.

5. None is present on behalf of the respondent PIO. Viewing the attitude in dealing with the RTI application by the respondent in a casual manner, Sh. Rajan Goyal, A.T.O-cum-Public Information Officer office of Regional Transport Authority, Bathinda, is, thus, issued a show cause notice to explain in a self-attested affidavit as to why a penalty @ Rs.250/- per day of delay subject to a maximum of Rs. 25,000/- till the complete information is furnished, be not imposed under Section 20(1) of RTI Act, 2005 on him for causing willful delay/denial of the information to the RTI applicant and to show cause why a compensation under section 19(8) of the RTI Act,2005, may not be paid to the appellant for causing willful delay/denial of the information for detriment suffered by him.

Contd...2/-

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In addition to the written reply, the Public Information Officer is also given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may take a note that in case he does not file his written reply and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission will proceed ex-parte.

6. It is also a fact that penalty was imposed upon the then PIO-cum-A.T.O., Sh. Bhupinder Singh amounting to Rs. 5000/- (Five Thousand only). One opportunity is granted to him to file a reply/represent this case on the next date of hearing, failing which a decision will be taken on merit, ex-parte.

7. A copy of this order is being sent to Sh. Bhupinder Singh, A.T.O-cum-Public Information Officer, Regional Transport Authority, Bathinda through Sh. Moneesh Kumar, IAS, State Transport Commissioner, Punjab. As such a copy of this order is being sent to him to comply with the order. He is also directed to ensure the presence of the present PIO office of Regional Transport Authority, Bathinda, on the next date of hearing.

8. Due to administrative reasons, the case file is being sent to the Registry Branch for reconstitution of the bench.

9. Next date of hearing, time and venue of the hearing will be informed to the parties after reconstitution of the bench.

**(Amrit Partap Singh Sekhon)**  
State Information Commissioner  
Punjab

**(Inderpal Singh)**  
Chief Information Commissioner  
Punjab

Date :27<sup>th</sup> March, 2024  
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Contd...3/-

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➤ PS to Shri Amrit Partap Singh Sekhon, State Information Commissioner,

- i) Sh. Moneesh Kumar, IAS,  
The State Transport Commissioner, Pb.,  
Sector 17, Chandigarh
- ii) Sh. Harjinder Singh Jassal, PCS  
Secretary,  
Regional Transport Authority,  
Bathinda(Punjab)
- iii) Sh. Rajan Goyal,  
A.T.O.-cum-PIO,  
Regional Transport Authority,  
Bathinda(Punjab)
- iv) Sh. Bhupinder Singh  
(the then PIO),  
A.T.O.-cum-PIO,  
Regional Transport Authority,  
Bathinda(Punjab)

**CC: The Deputy Registrar**

**Encl : Case-File**