

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.
Ph: 0172-2864116, Helpline No. 0172-2864100
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Visit us: - www.infocommpunjab.com



Sh. Manjinder Singh, (M: 9872015069)
#2469, Sunny Enclave, Sector-125,
Kharar, District Mohali.

.....Appellant

V/s

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

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Secretary,
Regional Transport Authority,
Amritsar.

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5555 of 2023

Present: (i) Sh. Manjinder Singh, the appellant.
(ii) Sh. Ravinder Singh, Jr. Assistant on behalf of the respondent PIO.

ORDER:

This order may be read with reference to the previous orders dated 23.09.2025 passed by the Commission, vide which a Bailable Warrant was issued to the PIO O/o RTO, Amritsar for personal appearance.

2. At today's hearing, the appellant states that inspite of the directions of the Commission, no information has been provided to him so far.

3. The respondent PIO represented by Sh. Ravinder Singh, Jr. Assistant states that due to some personal reasons, the PIO O/o RTO, Amritsar is unable to attend today's hearing and has sought adjournment.

4. The brief facts of this case are that this appeal case was earlier heard by the former SIC Sh. Asit Jolly and three hearings were held but none was appeared from the O/o RTO, Amritsar due to non-appearance, a penalty of Rs. 10,000.00 was imposed upon the PIO O/o RTO, Amritsar, who was incumbent at the time of filling the RTI application dated 03.04.2023 and directions were issued to the PIO for the compliance of the Order dated 22.04.2024. Due to the superannuation of the SIC Sh. Asit Jolly, the aforesaid case was reallocated to the Undersigned for non-compliance of the Order dated 22.04.2024 vide which a penalty was imposed upon the PIO O/o RTO, Amritsar. A Notice of Hearing was issued through registered post to the PIO O/o RTO, Amritsar to appear personally on 29.07.2025 before the Undersigned but none was appeared and the case was adjourned to 23.09.2025. **On 23.09.2025 against none was appeared and Bailable Warrant was issued against the PIO O/o RTO, Amritsar and the case was adjourned to 03.12.2025.**

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5. At today's hearing, neither the PIO O/o RTO, Amritsar appeared nor sent any compliance report in regard to the Order dated 22.04.2024, **which shows carelessness and irresponsible behaviour towards the orders of the Commission, which is not acceptable at all.**

6. Upon perusal of records of the case, the Commission is of the opinion that the conduct of the PIO is clearly violate of the provisions of the RTI Act. Even after specific directions given by the Commission vide Order dated 22.04.2024, the PIO O/o Regional Transport Authority, Amritsar has failed in compliance of the Commission's Order dated 22.04.2024. This directly contravenes the provisions of the RTI Act with respect to adhering to the timelines in compliance the orders of the Commission. The respondent Public Authority seems not to be tuned up to implement the provisions of the RTI Act in letter and spirit and not performing the duties enshrined under the RTI Act, 2005. It is also a fact that ample opportunities have been given but no cooperation is being given by the respondent PIO, which delays in delivering the justice.

7. After hearing the parties and perusal of the case file reveals that the appellant filed RTI application dated 03.04.2023 to the PIO and PIO has still not provided the information to the appellant after the delay of two years, which shows that the respondent has no regard for the RTI regime. Such kind of behavior of a Government servant needs to be condemned and such employees need to be taught a good lesson so that rest of the employees have a right kind of message to wake up and perform their duties under the RTI Act for ensuring complete transparency and due accountability in the governance affairs of the public authorities.

8. **The Commission takes a serious view of this matter and is constrained to enhance the amount of penalty from Rs. 10.000.00 to Rs. 25.000.00 (Rs. Five Twenty Five Thousand only) upon the PIO O/o RTO, Amritsar, who was incumbent at the time of filling the RTI application.**

9. It is observed that it is not clear as to how the RTI application has been dealt with in the office of the PIO O/o RTO, Amritsar. Therefore, keeping in view the above decision the **Sh. Khushdil Singh Sandhu, PCS-cum-RTO, Amritsar, Punjab** is directed to come present on the next date of hearing along with the information as sought by the appellant in the RTI application and explain his conduct and status of the complaint to enable the Commission to arrive at a reasonable /logical conclusion in the matter.

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10. In view of the above, the PIO O/o Secretary, Regional Transport authority, Amritsar **is hereby directed to recover this penalty amount from the salary** of the PIO, who was incumbent at the time of filling the RTI application and submit an undertaking to the Commission through a responsible officer who should be personally present on the next date of hearing. **The Commission also conveys its displeasure to the Principal Secretary, Department of Transport, Punjab, regarding the casual attitude of their subordinate officers.**

11. A copy of this order as well as the Order dated 22.04.2024 are being sent to the Principal Secretary, Department of Transport, Punjab to ensure the presence of all the concerned respondents and compliance report in regard to the Commission's Order dated 22.04.2024, on the next date of hearing. The Principal Secretary, Department of Transport, Punjab is hereby also advised to review all such cases under their charge and get the same complied with at the earliest.

12. With this, the case is **adjourned to 13th January, 2026 at 12.00 Noon for hearing at Chandigarh.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Dated: 03rd December, 2025

(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Enclosed: Order dated 22.04.2024.

Regd.

CC:

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|-------|---|------------------|
| (i) | Principal Secretary, Department of Transport,
Punjab, Mini Secretariat, Sector:09, Chandigarh. | (For compliance) |
| (ii) | Sh.Khushdil Singh Sandhu, PCS-cum-RTO, Amritsar | (For compliance) |
| (iii) | Drawing and Disbursing Officer O/o RTO, Amritsar | (For compliance) |