

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,

SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.

Ph: 0172-2864112, Email: - psic23@punjabmail.gov.in

Visit us: - www.infocommpunjab.com; Helpline No. 0172-2864100



Shri Lajpat Rai Garg, (98142 30616)

S/o Shri Harbans Lal,

R/o House No. B-3/287, Romana Street,

Jaito, District Faridkot.

....Complainant/Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Executive Officer,

Nagar Council, Mansa.

Public Information Officer,

O/o Executive Officer,

Municipal Council, Gurdaspur.

Public Information Officer,

O/o Executive Officer,

Nagar Council, Jaiton,

District Faridkot.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Additional Deputy Commissioner,

Urban Development, Mansa.

Public Information Officer,

O/o Regional Deputy Director,

Local Government, Ferozepur.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Regional Deputy Director,

Local Government, Ferozepur.

Public Information Officer,

O/o Additional Deputy Commissioner,

Urban Development, Faridkot.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Additional Deputy Commissioner,

Urban Development, Faridkot.

Public Information Officer,

O/o Director, Local Bodies, Punjab,

Municipal Bhawan, Sector-35-A, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Director, Local Bodies, Punjab,

Municipal Bhawan, Sector-35-A, Chandigarh.

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Public Information Officer,
O/o Additional Chief Secretary,
Local Government, Punjab,
Municipal Bhawan, Sector-35-A, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Additional Chief Secretary,
Local Government, Punjab,
Municipal Bhawan, Sector-35-A, Chandigarh.

Public Information Officer,
O/o Executive Officer,
Nagar Council, Sangat Mandi,
District Bathinda.

Public Information Officer,
O/o Executive Officer,
Nagar Council, Sardulgarh, District Mansa.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Regional Deputy Director,
Urban Local Bodies, Bathinda.

Public Information Officer,
O/o Deputy Commissioner,
Faridkot.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Deputy Commissioner,
Faridkot.

Public Information Officer,
O/o Executive Officer,
Nagar Council, Kotkapura,
District Faridkot.

Public Information Officer,
O/o Additional Deputy Commissioner,
(General), Tarn Taran.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Additional Deputy Commissioner,
(General), Tarn Taran.

....Respondents

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CC: 0124/2022	CC:0124/2023	CC:0125/2023	CC:0126/2023	CC:0127/2023	CC:0128/2023
AC:1223/2023	AC:1224/2022	CC:0653/2020	AC:2769/2021	4568 OF 2022	AC:5548/2023
AC:2219/2023	AC:2854/2023	AC:2869/2023	AC:2770/ 2021	AC:3286/2021	AC:2947/2022
AC:2948/2022	AC:4579/2022	AC:4588/2021	AC:4589/2021	AC:5366/2022	AC:5964/2023

Appellant: Lajpat Rai Garg

Respondents: Public Information Officers (PIOs) representative's of various departments:

1. Sh. Giyan Chand, Clerk (O/o EO, Nagar Council, Mansa).
2. Sh. Harjeet Singh, Clerk (O/o EO, Municipal Council, Gurdaspur).
3. Sh. Naib Singh, Inspector (O/o EO, Nagar Council, Jaito, Faridkot).
4. Sh. Molik Goyal, Clerk, Establishment Branch (O/o Director, Local Govt. Punjab) **On call.**
5. Sh. Rohit Chaudhary, Clerk, General Branch (O/o Director, Local Govt. Punjab) **On call.**
6. Sh. Jagjeet Singh, EO (O/o Nagar Council, Sangat Mandi, Bathinda).
7. Sh. Tarunjeet Singh, Supdt. (O/o Director, Local Govt. Punjab).
8. Sh. DC Singh, Accountant (O/o EO, Nagar Council, Sardulgarh, Bathinda).
9. Sh. Balbir Singh, Clerk (O/o EO, Nagar Council, Sardulgarh, Bathinda).
10. Sh. Shiv Kumar, Clerk (O/o SDM, Jaito, Faridkot).
11. Sh. Gurinder Pal Singh (O/o SDM, Jaito, Faridkot).
12. Sh. Surinder Kumar, Accountant (O/o EO, Municipal Council, Kotkapura, Faridkot).
13. Sh. Jugraj Singh, Supdt. (O/o EO, Municipal Council, Patti, Tarn Taran).

FINAL ORDER:

1. Background:

The present matter pertains to the hearing of **24 appeals/complaints** filed by **Mr. Lajpat Rai Garg** under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005**, against multiple **public authorities mentioned above**. Upon examination, it is evident that the **RTI applications** are **vague, ambiguous, and lack specificity**, making it challenging for both the **concerned departments** and the **Commission** to ascertain the exact nature of the **information** being sought. Many of the requests are **broad, unclear**, and framed in a manner that leads to **confusion** rather than promoting **transparency**. Such **imprecise applications** place an **undue burden** on **public authorities** and hinder the **effective functioning** of the **RTI framework**.

For instance, some of the RTI applications related to the above-mentioned 24 cases of the appellant are reproduced below:

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AC: 2854/2023

- ① NAB Singh employees MC Jothi who is accused in criminal case as injured me & lady Sunita Devi & a case against S/S/S/S at PS Jothi & many vigilance cases/Inquiries, Also linked application against him in FIR No 12/21 Vigilance Bureau Faridkot, S/O Jothi case FIR No 13/22/1/2022 U/S 295A etc and many other Inquiries, he facing you also send Inquiries to officers spite this you recommended leave for foreign, As staff is less in MC Jothi. ② Persons MC Jothi related go to Jail, (one killed & transferred). ③ Give A to 2 all cases related with Singh & all documents you recommended the leave for foreign with all office notings & copy of Rule of Dept for giving leave after end of cases.
- ④ Panchand S.I. who now in 'Jila Jail' send him A to 2 all related documents Inquiries, As send by EOM Kothapuri, his supervisor arrest system all documents & Action taken reports against Supt Sudeha Rani & other employees who promoted the criminal case As FIR No 12/21 Vigilance on my application 11/8/2017 all documents.
- ⑤ Your office Receipt / Dispatched Registers of Unla Your Branch Area from 7/1/2023 to 13/2/2023.
- ⑥ Now your office staff list, Rank, mobile No with office orders copies attached.
- ⑦ The copies of notices come to your Branch related from State Information Commission, with copies of notices, R.T.I. Also First appeal come to your Branch from DDLG / 1st appeal - cent (Sh. Reg Kumar Kothari DDLG) HO Chandigarh all Record Photo copies Attached, 11/10/2023.
- ⑧ The Court Cases list of your Branch Pending in Honable P. & Haryana High Court up to 13/2/23.
- ⑨ The Copies of dearness charge list of General Branch of Sunita Sharma, Sudeha Rani, Supt Kulwinder Singh & other Supt- Names & dearness charge lists from 1/1/2005 to 2/2/2023.
- ⑩ I give applications in your office dated 6/1/2023, 12/1/23, 16/1/2023 personally. Presentation with Reminders, all applications, office notings, Inquiries Reports, Attached.
- ⑪ The copy of Rule NAB Singh employees serving from 1993 at Jothi MC office, before 1993 he was at Kothapuri. You transfer many employees but not transfer to NAB Singh, from 1993, & his transfer appeal 1993 heard. Smt.
- ⑫ The copies of letters as Director vigilance sent to A.C.S.L.G. 1/6 & they sent to you from 1/1/2021 to 13/2/23.

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AC: 4589/2021

4589-21
2 (VVI)
RTI rule 3(1) Form A
Urgent Information

1 Name of the Office PIO/ EO: MC-KOTKAPURA
2 Name of the information seeker Lajpat Rai Garg S/o Sh. Harbans Lal r/o Romana Street, Jaitu
3 Process of receiving by Registered Post only
4 Fee Detail IPO No 53F-364074. Rs. 10/- only attached

(3)

Give Proceeding Books of meetings of MC's from 1/1/2014 to 31/3/2019, from original Books also meeting Despatched Letter sent to D.C. Sahib FARIDKOT, TO DLG Chandigarh, DDLG, Ferozpora, & Return Letters for passing or failed Motions, also name of Proceeding Clerk including Proceeding Clerk's duty in proceeding Clerk sent from 1/1/2015 to up to date, Record Photo Ops.

Give Copies of orders of Veerpal Singh Samtani Inspector who worked in MC's office, his orders of Joining, Rejoining orders and also reports write by him on Safai Karamchari's appointments from 1/1/2011 to up to date & his pay slip of pay given to him on duty.

Give fully files of appointments of employees on Compensation Ground of Death case of Rajesh Kumar s/o Raj Kumar 30/12/2016, Vijay Kumar s/o Sunder, Rakesh s/o Om Parkash, both in 2016, including options given H.O. & pay given to them up to date. Kallish Kumar s/o Diwan Chand, gave application on (Death Ground Compensation) gave application in office on 12/2/2019 fully files of appointment. also all meetings proceedings.

As Sanitation Branch reported for 68-68 (see estimate & Again (Again) Revised 71-volacs in December 2019, and tenders call under Article of Section 35 Pb. M.C. Act 1911, & give fully details of tender, copy of new papers, and allotted tender of Safai and also give fully details of Amount paid, & List of employees placed by Contractor & of (Account) Bank account details including G.P.F. P.P.F. details deposited by Contractor.

On letter of President of MC in January 2021, the estimate copies prepared by J.E Branch, and passed on January 2021 meeting give copies of all estimates and details of Tender Called (Called), all details of new paper Advertisement, Contractor name, and payment done to Contractor, copies of M.B's where amount entered Photo Copies.
PTG.

Note:- Documentation fees should be demanded as per point-wise within ten days. Give me fully information soon I have very urgent need and if information will not be delivered to me. I will appeal to higher appeal authority on your risk and you will be fully responsible.

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⑥ The Property Tax, Rent, Maps Amount received, charged sum Public from 11/1/18 to 31/12/2020, give in Pen drive due to Computer Process and other documents in paper process. Fully signed photocopies Attached.

⑦ Give List of properties (PROPERTIES) transferred in 11/1/2017 to 31/12/20 named with Name of old owner and now new owner & Survey, Pen drive of properties Conducted by office Contractor in year 2010 to up to date and fee details as transfer fees, lake fee & Copies fees, also details of notice issued U/s 195, 195A, 172, Copies of notices, fees charged from Public, give copies of G-8-18, not paying fee Composition fees, fully files given in Court cases for recovery of payments. City of Day Book of Car, Truck, Insurance Copies, RC Copies etc.

⑧ Give ownership City of Land Purchased by MC office in 1977-80 for Disposal works purchased from Sunder Singh & Kharon Singh also MC Property No. List Copy & City of office order to hand over water supply, sewage works Handled over to P.W.S.S.B. Magr.

⑨ Give General Cash Book, Urban Mission Cash Book from 11/1/2015 to 31/12/2019, & all Receipt Disputer Register of all Branches, includes RTI/Receipt/Disputer from 11/1/18 to 31/12/2019 & Cash Register of RTI under Rule 4 (C), for making Register from (C) Rule 3 (d) Register Register under Rule 4 (5) List

List of MC properties, shops on Rent & List of Defector & on Subletty, Subletty's names, Type of Business, & period of Occupation and proceeding by MC office as notice, Court Cases, all documents photocopies, also Copies of (7) Cases of Service Tax filed on office for imposing Rs. 40 lac, Details of Advocate fees, & Legal Advisor details from 11/1/2010 their names and amount to be Paid. & new list of Cases pending as filed against MC office in Civil Courts Forward, PHH Chandigarh, Supreme Court, & List of Cases pending before I-S-IC Information Commission Chandigarh. (10) Give List of Subletty filled Rent of 10 years for obtaining Rent of MC shops benefits. Photo Copies of Receipts, 22/7/2021

POSTAL ORDER	₹ 10
To whom payable	P10/EO MC
At what Office	Kaiguan
Whether crossed	
Date sent	20/7/2021
53F	364074

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2. Observations:

The respondent PIO O/o Executive Officer, Nagar Council, Jaiton, District Faridkot, through his representative, Sh. Naib Singh, has submitted that the appellant has been filing multiple RTI applications seeking personal information of government employees with whom he has had disputes. An FIR dated 29.05.2019 was registered against the appellant due to such conflicts. The relevant portion of the submission is reproduced below:

ਦਫਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਸਲ ਜੈਤੋ (ਫਰੀਦਕੋਟ)

ਨੰ ੫੭੭

ਮਿਤੀ 11-3-25

ਸੇਵਾ ਵਿਖੇ

ਸ੍ਰੀ ਸੰਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਧਾਲੀਵਾਲ

ਸਟੇਟ ਇੰਨਫਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ


ਪੰਜਾਬ (ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ) "

ਵਿਸ਼ਾ:- ਆਪ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਅਦਾਲਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਿਤੀ 12-3-25 ਨੂੰ ਲੱਗੀਆਂ ਹੋਈਆਂ 24 ਅਪੀਲਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਬੰਧ ਵਿੱਚ।

ਸ਼੍ਰੀਮਾਨ ਜੀ,

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਕਤ ਮਿਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਲਾਜਪਤ ਰਾਏ ਗਰਗ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਹਰਬੰਸ ਲਾਲ ਵਾਸੀ ਜੈਤੋ ਦੀਆਂ 24 ਅਪੀਲਾਂ/ਕੰਪਲੇਟ ਕੇਸ ਆਪ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਅਦਾਲਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੰਬਤ ਹਨ। ਇਸ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਦਾ ਮਿਤੀ 29-5-19 ਨੂੰ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਸਲ ਦੇ ਮੁਲਾਜ਼ਮਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਸਲ ਜੈਤੋ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਝਗੜਾ ਹੋਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਇਸ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਤੇ ਪਰਚਾ ਦਰਜ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਇਸ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਰੰਜਸ ਤਹਿਤ ਆਰ.ਟੀ.ਆਈ ਐਕਟ 2005 ਅਧੀਨ ਵੱਡੀ ਮਾਤਰਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ। ਜਿੰਨਾ ਵਿਅਕਤੀਆਂ ਨਾਲ ਇਸ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਦਾ ਝਗੜਾ ਚਲਦਾ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਜਦੋਂ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਕਰਮਚਾਰੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਬਦਲੀ ਦੂਸਰੀ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਸਲ ਦੀ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਇਸ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਰੰਜਸ ਤਹਿਤ ਉਸ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਸਲ ਦਾ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਮੰਗਣਾ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਜਿੰਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਵੇਰਵਾ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹੈ। (ਐਫ.ਆਈ.ਆਰ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਨਾਲ ਨੱਥੀ ਹੈ)

1. ਸ੍ਰੀ ਪ੍ਰੇਮ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਕਲਰਕ ਹੁਣ ਸੈਨਟਰੀ ਇੰਸਪੈਕਟਰ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਸਲ ਕੋਟਕਪੂਰਾ
2. ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਜੇ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਿਲਡਿੰਗ ਇੰਸਪੈਕਟਰ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਸਲ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਅਤੇ ਨਗਰ ਕੌਸਲ ਮਾਨਸਾ।


ਕਾਰਜ ਸਾਧਕ ਅਫਸਰ ਕਮ
ਪੀ.ਆਈ.ਓ
ਨਗਰ ਕੌਸਲ ਜੈਤੋ।

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All the cases mentioned above were discussed **separately at length**, and the **submissions** were made in **each and every case** by the representatives from the respective **departments** present in today's hearing. **Copies of the submissions** were duly provided to the **appellant**. A few of the submissions from the respondent PIOs are reproduced below :

OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, MANSA (DISTT. MANSA)

To

Sh. Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal,
State Information Commissioner, Punjab,
Chandigarh.

Letter Number: 60 Date: 07.01.2025

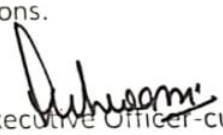
Subject: RTI Appeal Case No. 1223/2023.

Ref. No. Your Order Dated 20.11.2024 in Appeal Case No. 1223/2023.

On the above noted subject it is requested that I have joined as Executive Officer at Municipal Council, Mansa on dated 24.12.2024. I have gone through the file, the information sought by the applicant is highly voluminous majority of it has already be supplied to the applicant vide Letter No. 1900 Dated 23.09.2022. But applicant is not satisfied and pointing out further discrepancies. The information sought is almost whole of the record of office of all branches, which itself appears to be defeating the objective of the Act. Municipal Council, Mansa is already short of staff. All APIO are having various additional charge. It is requested to direct the applicant to Visit Municipal Council, Mansa office on any working day giving one week advance information to inspect the record he desire. The copies of the same shall be provided if permissible by law.

It is further requested to waive off the penalty imposed by the commission by order dated 20.11.2024 amounting Rs. 10000.00. I demand unconditional apology on behalf of PIO and APIO due to whose carelessness application could not be disposed off timely and logical manner.

It is preyed to dispose off the case with suitable directions.


Executive Officer-cum-PIO,
Municipal Council, Mansa.

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However, upon **each case**, the **appellant** pointed out **deficiencies**, repeatedly stating that certain **information was incomplete or unsatisfactory**. The deficiencies submitted by the appellant in the cases are reproduced below:

Subject: In A/c 124, 125, 126, 127, 128/2023 Related be
attached As A/c 5933, 5934, 5935, 5936, 5937/23
be converted in Appeal Cases.

Respected Sir,

As above Subject above Complaint Cases are
Pending from 2023, as not provided information, I meet to
Honble Ex Commissioner Sahab S. A.S. Sodhi, they also
say for filing appeals for further proceedings. I
send Cases D/No. 22661 to 22670 Dated 11/9/2023,
Please Penalize the P.O./ Compensation be granted to me
for Harassment & provided me information As
old orders passed in 9/23. & also the Cases & converted in
Appeal Cases. Thanking you.

Yours faithfully 70/3/25
Lajpat Rai Gargy S. S., Haridwar
Ramesh Street Jodhpur

The **appellant** was advised to **conduct an inspection of records**, but he **refused**, alleging **non-cooperation** from the concerned **departments**. The **nature of the RTI requests** appears to be **vexatious**, with the **intent of harassing officials** rather than securing **information** in the **public interest**.

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3. Legal Precedents:

The **Hon'ble Supreme Court** and various **High Courts** have repeatedly emphasized that the **RTI Act** should not be **misused** for **personal vendetta**, **fishing inquiries**, or to **harass public officials**. The following **case laws** set important **legal precedents**:

- **Central Board of Secondary Education & Anr. v. Aditya Bandopadhyay & Ors. (2011) 8 SCC 497:** The **Supreme Court** ruled that the **RTI Act** is intended to **promote transparency and accountability** in the working of **public authorities** but should **not** be used to demand **voluminous and irrelevant information** that serves **no genuine public interest**. The Court observed that **indiscriminate and impractical demands** for **information** can be **counterproductive** and burden **public authorities**.
- **Union of India v. Namit Sharma (2013) 10 SCC 359:** This case highlighted that while the **RTI Act** serves as a tool for ensuring **transparency**, it should **not** be **misused** for **personal grievances**, **private motives**, or as a **tool to intimidate public servants**. The Court stressed the **need to balance transparency with the right to privacy** and **efficient governance**.
- **Girish Ramchandra Deshpande v. Central Information Commissioner & Ors. (2013) 1 SCC 212:** The **Supreme Court** clarified that **personal information** relating to an **individual**, such as **employment details**, **service records**, and **disciplinary proceedings**, is **exempt from disclosure** unless a **larger public interest** is demonstrated. The ruling reaffirmed that **RTI should not be a means to extract personal information without justified cause**.
- **High Court of Punjab & Haryana in Vijay Kumar v. State Information Commission CWP No. 4787 of 2011:** The Court observed that **repetitive and frivolous RTI applications** impose an **unnecessary burden** on **public authorities** and **waste administrative resources**. It emphasized that **RTI should be exercised responsibly** and **not be used as a tool to harass public officials** through **excessive and baseless inquiries**.

Decision:

- The **RTI Act, 2005**, is a **tool for transparency and accountability** and should **not** be used as a means for **harassment or personal vendetta** against **public officials**. However, the **Commission also recognizes** that **every citizen has the right to seek information**, provided the request is **reasonable and in**

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public interest.The above-mentioned **appeals/complaints stand dismissed** as the **information sought** is either **exempt under the RTI Act** or is intended for **personal grievances rather than public interest.**

- The **appellant** is issued a **strict warning** to refrain from filing **frivolous and vexatious RTI applications** that **waste public resources.**
- The **concerned PIOs** are advised to **exercise their discretion** under **Section 7(9) of the RTI Act** in the future to prevent **misuse of the Act.**
- Any **future RTI applications** from the **appellant** seeking **similar information** may be **summarily rejected** if found **vexatious or lacking public interest.**
- The **appellant** is advised to be **precise and specific** in **future RTI applications** and **not to misuse the Act** for **personal revenge.**
- Considering the pattern of the RTI applications and the lack of public interest in these cases, the penalties in **CC: 653/2020** and **CC: 124/2022**, as well as the compensations in **AC: 1223/2022** and **CC: 124/2022**, are hereby **dropped.**

Copies of the order are sent to **all concerned parties.** The cases are **disposed of accordingly.**

(Virinderjit Singh Billing)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab
Chandigarh .

(Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab
Chandigarh

Date
12.03.2025