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....Respondents

Shri Ashok Kumar,

R/o # F-7/250, Gali Arey Wali, Kashmir Avenue, Amritsar.

Versus

....Appellant

Public Information Officer,

O/o Building Branch, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

APPEAL CASE NO. 5249 OF 2023

Present:

Appellant: Ms. Kamaldeep Kaur Respondent: Absent

ORDER (Fourth Hearing):

- 1. The aforementioned Appeal Case was previously listed for hearing before the Bench of the former Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Punjab, Shri Asit Jolly. Following his retirement, the matter was reallocated to the undersigned Bench. Accordingly, the case is fixed for hearing today.
- 2. The appellant is present. However, the respondent has remained absent for the fourth consecutive hearing without any intimation to the Commission.
- 3. It is noted that a penalty of ₹25,000/- was imposed on the then Public Information Officer (PIO), and compensation of ₹5,000/- was awarded to the appellant vide order dated 20.06.2024. The said order is still pending compliance.
- 4. The continued absence of the respondent, despite repeated opportunities and without any justification, reflects disregard for the proceedings of the Commission.
- 5. In light of the above, the respondent PIO is directed to ensure compliance with the Commission's order dated 20.06.2024 within **15 days** from the date of this order, failing which coercive measures as per the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 shall be initiated.
- 6. The matter is adjourned and will be listed for **compliance** <u>hearing on 26.08.2025 at 11.00</u> <u>AM at Punjab State Information Commission, Red Cross Building, Madhya Marg,</u> <u>Sector 16, Chandigarh</u>.

Chandigarh 17.06.2025

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Shri Ravinder Pal Singh Chadha, (9814228629)

R/o # 30, Banda Bahadur Nagar, Jalandhar.

....Appellant

Versus

APPEAL CASE NO. 5283 OF 2023

Public Information Officer,

O/o Municipal Corporation, Jalandhar.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jalandhar.

....Respondents

Present:

Appellant: Sh. Ravinder Pal Singh Chadha **Respondent**: Sh. Ajay Kumar (Building Inspector)

ORDER:

- 1. The above-captioned appeal was earlier listed for hearing before the Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Punjab, Shri Asit Jolly. Consequent upon his retirement, the matter now stands reallocated to the undersigned Bench. The case was accordingly fixed for hearing today.
- 2. Both parties are present for the hearing.
- 3. The Respondent, Sh. Ajay Kumar (Building Inspector), submitted that the requisite information has been furnished to the Appellant vide letter bearing reference no. 664 dated 01.01.2024, comprising 7 pages. A copy of this communication has also been endorsed to the Commission.
- 4. The Appellant, Sh. Ravinder Pal Singh Chadha, has contended that the information provided is incomplete. Specifically, he asserts that the information pertaining to **point no. 1** of his RTI application is still pending.
- 5. In view of the above, the Respondent is directed to **revisit the RTI application** and ensure that complete information pertaining to **point no. 1** is provided to the Appellant. If the information is not available or exempt under any provision of the RTI Act, a suitable reply citing the relevant section of the Act must be provided in writing.
- 6. The Respondent shall comply with this order and submit a compliance report to the Commission, with a copy to the Appellant, **within 15 days** from the date of this order.
- The matter is adjourned and will be listed for further hearing <u>on 26.08.2025 at 11.00 AM at</u> <u>Punjab State Information Commission, Red Cross Building, Madhya Marg, Sector 16,</u> <u>Chandigarh</u> to ensure compliance.

Chandigarh 17.06.2025

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Shri Rajesh Bhadoo, (94170 09727)

S/o Shri Mahavir, R/o # 229, Village Waryam Khera, Tehsil Abohar, District Fazilka.

....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o District Development & Panchayat Officer, Fazilka.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Director, Rural Development & Panchayat Department, Punjab, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali).

APPEAL CASE NO. 5294 OF 2023

....Respondents

Present:

Appellant: Absent Respondent: Sh. Satpal (Panchayat Secretary) ORDER:

1. The above-captioned appeal was earlier listed for hearing before the Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Punjab, Shri Asit Jolly. Consequent upon his retirement, the matter now stands reallocated to the undersigned Bench. The case was accordingly fixed for hearing today.

2 The Respondent, **Sh. Satpal (Panchayat Secretary)**, stated that he had **not received the RTI application** earlier and, therefore, could **not furnish the requisite information** to the Appellant. During the hearing, he **collected a copy of the RTI application** from the case file and **requested an adjournment**, assuring the Commission that the **necessary reply/information will be provided within 15 days**.

3. In view of the Respondent's claim of non-receipt of the original RTI application and the fact that a copy has now been provided during the hearing, the Commission finds it appropriate to grant a final opportunity for submission of the information.

4. The matter is accordingly adjourned to enable the Respondent to examine the RTI application and provide a complete and correct response to the Appellant.

5. The Respondent is directed to provide the required information to the Appellant within 15 days from the date of this order, and also submit a compliance report to the Commission. Non-compliance will invite appropriate action under the RTI Act, 2005.

6. The matter is adjourned and will be listed for further hearing <u>on 26.08.2025 at 11.00 AM at</u> <u>Punjab State Information Commission, Red Cross Building, Madhya Marg, Sector 16,</u> <u>Chandigarh</u> to ensure compliance.

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Shri Kulwinder Singh Ghuman, (9041002785)

Chamber No. 138, Mahatma Gandhi Complex, Block-2, District Courts, Patiala.

....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Municipal Corporation, Patiala.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Patiala.

APPEAL CASE NO. 5391 OF 2023

....Respondents

<u>Present:</u> Appellant: Absent Respondent: Sh. Satpal (Panchayat Secretary) ORDER:

1. The above-captioned appeal was earlier listed for hearing before the Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Punjab, Shri Asit Jolly. Consequent upon his retirement, the matter now stands reallocated to the undersigned Bench. The case was accordingly fixed for hearing today.

2. The Appellant is present; however, the Respondent is absent. It is noted that a show cause notice was issued to the Respondent-PIO on 12.01.2024, but no reply has been submitted, and the Respondent failed to appear before the Commission.

4. The Appellant has stated that **no information has been provided to him till date**, despite the issuance of the show cause notice and the lapse of considerable time.

5. In view of the continued negligence, absence, and non-compliance, the Commission hereby strictly directs the Respondent-PIO to provide the complete, true, and correct information to the Appellant within 7 days from the date of this order, without fail.

6. A copy of this order is directed to be sent to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Patiala and Principal Secretary, Department of Local Government, Punjab to take cognizance of the lapse and to ensure compliance through appropriate administrative action and oversight.

7. The Respondent is warned that failure to comply with this order will lead to penal action under Section 20 of the RTI Act, 2005. Furthermore, continued absence in future hearings may result in the issuance of a bailable warrant for securing the Respondent's presence before the Commission.

8. The matter is adjourned and will be listed for further hearing <u>on 26.08.2025 at 11.00 AM at Punjab</u> <u>State Information Commission, Red Cross Building, Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh</u> to ensure compliance.

Chandigarh **17.06.2025**

(Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal) State Information Commissioner, Punjab.

CC: Principal Secretary, Department of Local Government, Government of Punjab Municipal Bhawan, Plot No. 3 Dakshin Marg, Sector 35A Chandigarh – 160022 (to ensure compliance)

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Shri Sarabjeet Singh Gill, (9888098886)

S/o Shri Amarjeet Singh, R/o # 376, Street No. 8, Maha Singh Nagar, Daba-Lohara Road, Ludhiana.

....Appellant

Versus

APPEAL CASE NO. 5423 OF 2023

Public Information Officer,

O/o Deputy Commissioner, Patiala.

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

....Respondents

Present:

Appellant: Absent Respondent: Absent

ORDER:

1. The above-captioned appeal was earlier listed for hearing before the Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Punjab, Shri Asit Jolly. Consequent upon his retirement, the matter now stands reallocated to the undersigned Bench. The case was accordingly fixed for hearing today.

2. Both the parties are absent therefore the matter is adjourned.

3. <u>Next hearing on 24.07.2025 at 11.00 AM at Punjab State Information</u> <u>Commission, Red Cross Building, Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.</u>

Chandigarh 17.06.2025

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Shri Dinesh Lamba, R/o # 8-E, Silver Heights Apartments, Nakodar Road, Jalandhar.

Versus

....Appellant

....Respondents

Public Information Officer,

O/o Assistant Town Planner, Municipal Corporation, Jalandhar.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jalandhar.

APPEAL CASE NO. 5457 OF 2023

Present:

Appellant: Shri Dinesh Lamba **Respondent**: Ms. Mandeep Kaur (Draftman- cum- APIO)

ORDER:

1. The above-captioned appeal was earlier listed for hearing before the Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Punjab, Shri Asit Jolly. Consequent upon his retirement, the matter now stands reallocated to the undersigned Bench. The case was accordingly fixed for hearing today.

2. Both parties are present for the hearing.

3. The Appellant, Shri Dinesh Lamba, submitted that there has been an inordinate delay in the matter and no information has been provided to him thus far by the Respondent.

4. The Respondent, Ms. Mandeep Kaur, Draftsman-cum-APIO, appeared and sought an adjournment. A written request for the same has been submitted during the hearing, citing the reasons as mentioned in Memo No. 558 dated 17.06.2025.

5. The Commission observes that there has already been considerable delay in the matter and no substantive response has been offered by the Respondent to the Appellant's grievance. While the reason for adjournment has been placed on record, the Respondent is hereby warned to avoid any further delay in the proceedings. No further leniency shall be granted.

6. Accordingly, the matter is adjourned **one final time**. The Respondent is directed to ensure submission of the complete and appropriate response to the Appellant **prior to the next date of hearing**, failing which appropriate penal action may be initiated under the applicable provisions.

8. The matter is adjourned and will be listed for further hearing <u>on 26.08.2025 at 11.00 AM at Punjab</u> <u>State Information Commission, Red Cross Building, Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh</u> to ensure compliance.

Chandigarh 17.06.2025

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Shri Gurpreet Singh, (98146 94156)

S/o Shri Jaswant Singh, R/o Village Sarphali Shah, Post Office Fatehgarh Panjtoor, Block Makhu, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepur.

....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, **O/o** Block Development & Panchayat Officer, Block Makhu, District Ferozepur.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o District Development & Panchayat Officer, Ferozepur.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 5467 OF 2023

Present:

Appellant: Absent Respondent: Absent

ORDER:

1. The above-captioned appeal was earlier listed for hearing before the Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Punjab, Shri Asit Jolly. Consequent upon his retirement, the matter now stands reallocated to the undersigned Bench. The case was accordingly fixed for hearing today.

2. Both the parties are absent therefore the matter is adjourned.

3. <u>Next hearing on 26.08.2025 at 11.00 AM at Punjab State Information</u> <u>Commission, Red Cross Building, Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.</u>

Chandigarh 17.06.2025



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Shri Inderjit Verma, (8054002418)

S/o Shri Bachan Dass, R/o Ward No. 27, Bhattian, Khanna, District Ludhiana.

....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Executive Officer, Nagar Council, Khanna, District Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Additional Deputy Commissioner, Urban Development, Ludhiana.

APPEAL CASE NO. 5469 OF 2023

....Respondents

Present:

Appellant: Shri Inderjit Verma Respondent: Sh. Sandeep Singh (JE) ORDER:

1. The above-captioned appeal was earlier listed for hearing before the Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Punjab, Shri Asit Jolly. Consequent upon his retirement, the matter now stands reallocated to the undersigned Bench. The case was accordingly fixed for hearing today.

2. Both the parties were present for the hearing. The Respondent, Sh. Sandeep Singh, JE/PIO, submitted that the information sought under the RTI application has already been provided to the Appellant. He further stated that the penalty amount of ₹25,000 and compensation of ₹10,000 have also been duly deposited/paid. A compliance report from the PIO has already been received in the Commission vide Diary No. 15216 dated 05.12.2024.

3. The Respondent Sh. Sandeep Singh (JE) reiterated during today's hearing that the requisite information stands supplied and nothing remains pending; hence, the case may be considered for closure.

4. The Appellant, however, contested this submission and stated that the information provided by the PIO is **incomplete**. He also made a written submission detailing the deficiencies, which was handed over to the Respondent during the hearing.

5. In light of the submissions made by both parties, the Commission hereby **directs the PIO** as follows:

i. Review the deficiencies pointed out by the Appellant during the hearing, strictly in reference to the **original RTI application**. The PIO is **not required** to address any queries outside the scope of the original RTI request.

Contd. Pg. No. 2

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APPEAL CASE NO. 5469 OF 2023

- ii. The PIO is further directed to file a duly notarized affidavit affirming that:
 - The information already provided to the Appellant is true, correct, and complete.
 - Nothing has been concealed from the information sought.
 - The affidavit must be sent in original to the Appellant and a copy must be submitted to the Commission.

6. The above compliance must be completed within 15 days from the date of issue of this order, without fail.

7. <u>Next hearing on 26.08.2025 at 11.00 AM at Punjab State Information</u> <u>Commission, Red Cross Building, Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.</u>

Chandigarh 17.06.2025

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Shri Makhan Singh, (99151 69047) S/o Shri Jagir Singh, R/o Village Bika, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.

Versus

....Appellant

Public Information Officer, **O/o** Punjab State Co-operative Agriculture development Bank Ltd., Bank Square,

Sector 17B, Chandigarh - 160 017.

Public Information Officer

O/o Punjab State Co-operative Bank Ltd., Sector-34, Chandigarh

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Punjab State Co-operative Agriculture development Bank Ltd., Bank Square, Sector 17B, Chandigarh – 160 017

APPEAL CASE NO. 5480 OF 2023

....Respondents

<u>Present:</u> Appellant: Shri Makhan Singh Respondent: Sh. Sandeep Singh (JE) ORDER:

1. The above-mentioned appeal was earlier listed for hearing before the Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Punjab, Shri Asit Jolly. Consequent upon his retirement, the matter now stands reallocated to the undersigned Bench. The case was accordingly fixed for hearing today.

2. The appellant is present and has stated that no information has been provided to him so far. The PIO from the Office of the Punjab State Co-operative Bank Ltd., Sector 34, Chandigarh, (as mentioned in the last order of the commission dated 21.05.2024) appeared today in place of the PIO from the Office of the Punjab State Co-operative Agricultural Development Bank Ltd., Bank Square, Sector 17B, Chandigarh (as mentioned in the original case file).

3. The PIO from the Office of the Punjab State Co-operative Bank Ltd., Sector 34, Chandigarh denied the requested information, claiming that their office does not fall under the purview of the RTI Act, 2005.

4. The Commission hereby directs the PIO from the Office of the Punjab State Co-operative Bank Ltd., Sector 34, Chandigarh, to appear before the Commission with a proper and complete reply to the RTI application, without fail. The PIO is also instructed to clarify the facts of the case and ensure compliance with the Commission's directions.

5. Next hearing on 26.08.2025 at 11.00 AM at Punjab State Information Commission, Red Cross Building, Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Chandigarh 17.06.2025

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Shri Pardeep Kumar, (90231 66819)

S/o Shri Om Parkash, R/o # 28, Green Valley, Near Banke Bihari Gali, Batala Road, Amritsar.

....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 5482 OF 2023

Present: Appellant: Shri Pardeep Kumar Respondent: Ms. Kulwinder Kaur ORDER:

1. The above-mentioned appeal was earlier listed for hearing before the Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Punjab, Shri Asit Jolly. Consequent upon his retirement, the matter now stands reallocated to the undersigned Bench. The case was accordingly fixed for hearing today.

2. Both parties are present for the hearing today. The PIO, represented by Ms. Kulwinder Kaur, submitted a reply vide letter Memo No. 118 dated 06.06.2023, wherein the information was denied on the grounds that the queries raised were in the form of questions, which are not required to be answered under the RTI Act.

3. However, upon perusal of the RTI application, the Commission finds the reply to be inappropriate. Therefore, the PIO is directed to provide a proper and appropriate response under the RTI Act within 15 days from the date of issuance of this order, without fail.

<u>4. Next hearing on 26.08.2025 at 11.00 AM at Punjab State Information Commission, Red</u> Cross Building, Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Chandigarh 17.06.2025 (Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal)

State Information Commissioner, Punjab.



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Shri Gagandeep Singh, (9876112094)

S/o Shri Tarsem Pal, R/o Near Lala Wala Peer, Ward No. 8, Bareta, Tehsil Budhlada, District Mansa.

....Appellant

....Respondents

Versus

Public Information Officer, **O/o** Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Bareta, District Mansa.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Additional Deputy Commissioner, Urban Development, Mansa.

APPEAL CASE NO. 5484 OF 2023

Present:

Appellant: Absent Respondent: Sh. Sanjeev Kumar (clerk)

ORDER:

1. The above-mentioned appeal was earlier listed for hearing before the Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Punjab, Shri Asit Jolly. Consequent upon his retirement, the matter now stands reallocated to the undersigned Bench. The case was accordingly fixed for hearing today.

2. The respondent, Sh. Sanjeev Kumar, appeared and submitted a written reply along with the information pertaining to the RTI application, vide letter Ref. No. 95 dated 08.06.2023. The reply comprises a total of six (6) pages.

3. However, the appellant is absent during today's hearing. Considering the absence of the appellant, the Commission grants **one final opportunity** to the appellant to appear **in person** or through an authorized representative on the **next date of hearing** to pursue the matter further. **In case of non-appearance**, the matter shall be decided **ex-parte**, based on the material available on record.

4. Next hearing on 26.08.2025 at 11.00 AM at Punjab State Information Commission, Red Cross Building, Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Chandigarh 17.06.2025



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Shri Sarabjit Singh Manhas, (98722 58726)

RTI Activist R/o H. No. 1375, Street Chobna Wali, Verka, District Amritsar.

....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer, O/o Director.

State Transport Department, Punjab, Jeevandeep Building, Sector-17, Chandigarh.

First Appellate Authority, O/o Director, State Transport Department, Punjab, Jeevandeep Building, Sector-17, Chandigarh.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 5498 OF 2021

<u>Present:</u> Appellant: Absent Respondent: Absent

ORDER:

1. The above-mentioned appeal was earlier listed for hearing before the Hon'ble State Information Commissioner, Punjab, Shri Anumit Singh Sodhi. Consequent upon his retirement, the matter now stands reallocated to the undersigned Bench. The case was accordingly fixed for hearing today.

2. Both the parties are absent during today's hearing. In the interest of natural justice, the matter is hereby **adjourned**.

3. The Commission directs **both the appellant and the respondent** to remain present on the next date of hearing to represent the case **without fail**. Non-compliance may lead to appropriate action or **ex-parte** decision based on the records available.

4. Next hearing on 26.08.2025 at 11.00 AM at Punjab State Information Commission, Red Cross Building, Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Chandigarh 17.06.2025

