

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,

Sector 16, Chandigarh.

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

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Shri Rajinder Kumar Sharma, (8360589644)

R/o Village and Post Office Raisar,
Tehsil & District Barnala.

....Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer

O/o Sub Divisional Engineer,
Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board,
Barnala.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o XEN,
Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board,
Barnala.

....Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 5887 OF 2023

Present :

Appellant : Absent

Respondent: Sh. Gurpreet Singh (JE)

ORDER:

1. This order may be read in reference to the previous order of the Commission dated **11.11.2025**, whereby the Respondent PIO was directed to comply with the directions of earlier orders and to submit a show cause reply for non-compliance and absence from the hearing.
2. Today, the Respondent PIO is represented by **Sh. Gurpreet Singh (J.E.)**, O/o Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Division, who submits a **show cause reply vide letter ref. no. SPL-1 dated 20.01.2026** along with a reply to the RTI application **vide letter ref. no. 562 dated 30.06.2025**, copy of which has also been endorsed to the appellant. As per the said reply, it has been clarified that **no work was carried out by the department from the permanent gate to the temple of Mai Rani in S.A.S. Nagar and village Sanghera during the financial years March 2020 to April 2023**, as per the office records.
3. In view of the above submission and compliance placed on record, the Commission finds that the Respondent has now complied with the directions of the Commission and furnished the information as available on record. Accordingly, **no further action is warranted in the matter** and the **show cause notice is hereby dropped**.
4. **The case is disposed of accordingly.**

Chandigarh
20.01.2026

Sd/-
(Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Sh. Jasbir Singh
S/o Sh. Gurnam Singh,
Village – Rurki, P. O. – Ghanaur,
Tehsil- Rajpura, Distt. –Patiala (Punjab)
(M.-9814020626)

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Block Development and Panchayat Officer,
Ghanaur, Distt. -Patiala(Punjab)

First Appellate Authority,
O/o The District Development and Panchayat Officer,
Patiala (Punjab)

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 1896 of 2025

Present : NONE

ORDER

1. This order may be read with reference to the Commission's previous order dated **12.11.2025**, whereby the Respondent was directed to supply complete information pertaining to **Point No. 2** of the appellant's RTI application.
2. Today, **both parties are present**. The Respondent, **Sh. Jagjit Singh (Panchayat Secretary)**, submits that the requisite information has been supplied to the appellant in compliance with the Commission's last order. The appellant acknowledges receipt of the information; however, he has expressed grievance regarding the **undue delay and harassment** faced by him in obtaining the information.
3. The Commission notes that although compliance has eventually been made, the **avoidable delay and repeated directions** point towards **casual and negligent handling of the RTI application**, which defeats the very spirit of the RTI Act, 2005. The Respondent PIO is, therefore, **severely warned** to strictly adhere to the statutory timelines, to deal with RTI applications with due diligence and seriousness, and to ensure that such lapses are **not repeated in future**. The Respondent is further cautioned that **any recurrence of such conduct shall be viewed seriously** and may invite action under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.
4. In view of the compliance now placed on record, **no further action is warranted** and the **case is DISPOSED OF accordingly**.

Chandigarh
20.01.2026

Sd/-
(Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Sh. Pavitter Singh, (M.-8847537674)
Aare Wali Street,
Near Bus Stand,
SriMuktsar Sahib – 152026 (Punjab)

....Appellant
V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Civil Surgeon,
Fazilka (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority,
O/o The Civil Surgeon,
Fazilka (Punjab)

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 6659 of 2023

Date of RTI Application	Date of Reply, if any of SPIO	Date of First Appeal made, if any	Date of reply, if any of FAA	Date of Second Appeal received in the Commission
19.05.2023	05.07.2023	07.08.2023	28.08.2023	09.10.2023

Present: Appellant: Sh. Pavitter Singh (In person)
Respondent: Dr. Ashima Sethi (ENT Specialist) on call

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the Commission's previous order dated **13.11.2025**.
2. The appellant has sought information pertaining to the **names of employees (by name karamchari) working under the Civil Surgeon, Fazilka (Punjab)** and copies of the **certificates submitted by them at the time of joining service**.
3. Today, both the parties are present. The Respondent, **Dr. Ashima Sethi (ENT Specialist)**, has made submissions **telephonically** during the hearing. Further, an email has been received from the Respondent PIO, which is taken on record. The Respondent PIO has submitted that the appellant has sought **personal information of third-party employees**, which was furnished by the concerned employees to the department with a clear request that the same **should not be disclosed to any third party**. The appellant was accordingly informed of non-disclosure **vide letter no. 2134 dated 06.09.2023**. The Respondent has also relied upon instructions issued by the **Department of Governance Reforms & Public Grievances, Government of Punjab, vide letter dated 09.08.2021**, discouraging disclosure of such personal information.
4. The Commission observes that the information sought pertains to **personal service records of third-party employees**, disclosure of which is exempt under **Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005**, and the appellant has **failed to establish any larger public interest** warranting disclosure of the same.
5. In view of the above, the Commission finds the reply furnished by the Respondent PIO to be **justified and in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005**. Accordingly, **no further intervention is required** and the **appeal is DISMISSED**.

Chandigarh
20.01.2026

Sd/-
(Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Sh. Kamaljit Singh
S/o Sh. Joginder Singh,
Village – Halder Jungnath,
P. O. – Bhabber,
Tehsil & Distt. - - Pathankot - 145023(Punjab)
(M.-9988404669)
RTI Application No. 79013

....Appellant
V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Block Development
and Panchayat Officer,
Pathankot (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority,
O/o The District Development
and Panchayat Officer,
Pathankot (Punjab)

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 6718 of 2023

Date of RTI Application	Date of Reply, if any of SPIO	Date of First Appeal made, if any	Date of order, if any of FAA	Date of Second Appeal received in the Commission
26.07.2023	--	27.08.2023	--	16.10.2023

Present: NONE

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the Commission's previous order dated **13.11.2025**, whereby the Respondent PIO as well as the appellant were directed to remain present and to comply with the directions issued therein.
2. Today, **both the appellant and the Respondent are again absent** without any intimation. This is the **third consecutive hearing** where neither party has appeared before the Commission, despite due service of notice. No compliance report or submission has been received from either side.
3. In view of the continued absence of the parties and lack of prosecution, the Commission is of the considered view that **no useful purpose would be served by keeping the matter pending**.
4. Accordingly, the **appeal is DISPOSED OF for non-prosecution**.

However, **liberty is granted to the appellant to approach the Commission within fifteen (15) days** from the date of issuance of this order, in case he wishes to file any submission or seek revival of the matter, in accordance with law.

Chandigarh
20.01.2026

Sd/-
(Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Sh. Avtar Singh
S/o Sh. Harvinder Singh,
V.P.O. - Gige Majra
Distt. - S. A. S. Nagar(Mohali) (Punjab)
(M.-9876851368)

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Executive Engineer,
Punjab Mandi Board,
Sector 65-A, Mandi Bhawan,
S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority,
O/o The Chief Engineer,
Punjab Mandi Board,
Sector 65-A, Mandi Bhawan,
S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) (Punjab)

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 1736 of 2024

1/2

Date of RTI Application	Date of Reply, if any of SPIO	Date of First Appeal made, if any	Date of reply, if any of FAA	Date of Second Appeal received in the Commission
16.08.2023	--	14.11.2023	--	19.04.2024

Present:

Appellant: Sh. Avtar Singh

Respondent: Sh. Sukhwinder Singh (XEN)

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the Commission's earlier order dated 13.10.2025, wherein a Show Cause Notice was issued to Sh. Sukhwinder Singh (XEN Civil) for non-compliance of the directions of the Commission.
2. Today, both the parties are present. In compliance with the aforesaid order, Sh. Sukhwinder Singh (XEN Civil) appears before the Commission and submits that the requisite reply/information has been supplied to the appellant vide letter ref. no. 005553 dated 04.12.2025. He further submits that all points of the RTI application have been duly addressed and that no information remains pending.
3. The appellant, present today, submits that he is not satisfied with the reply furnished and states that certain discrepancies in the information supplied were brought to the notice of the Commission vide his written submissions dated 15.12.2025 and 22.12.2025.
4. After keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the case and the submissions made by both the parties, the Commission finds that the respondent has supplied the information as available on the official record and, prima facie, the reply furnished by the Respondent PIO appears to be satisfactory. However, the Commission also notes the appellant's contention regarding alleged discrepancies.
5. At this stage, it is pertinent to observe that under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005, the jurisdiction of the Commission is confined to examining whether information, as held and available on record with the public authority, has been provided or not. The Commission is neither empowered to verify the correctness of the records maintained by the public authority nor to adjudicate upon disputes relating to the authenticity or accuracy of such records or to take any consequential action thereon.

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Appeal Case No. 1736 of 2024

2/2

6. In order to place the matter beyond doubt and to ensure due compliance, the Commission deems it appropriate to direct the Respondent PIO to file a formal undertaking.
7. **Accordingly, the PIO/Respondent is directed to file a duly signed written undertaking certifying that the information supplied to the appellant has been furnished strictly as per the records available with the public authority, that all points of the RTI application stand fully complied with, and that no information has been withheld, concealed or remains pending for disclosure.**
8. The original copy of the said undertaking shall be sent to the appellant, with a copy endorsed to the Commission, within **five days** from the date of receipt of this order.
9. With the above observations and directions, the appeal is **disposed of**.

Chandigarh
20.01.2026

Sd/-
(Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Sh. Ravinder Kumar
S/o Sh. Shiv Nath,
Ward No. 1, Basoli Road,
Rakkar Colony,
UNA – Himachal Pradesh – 174303
(M.-7837517939)

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Executive Officer,
Nagar Panchayat,
Mahilpur, Distt. - Hoshiarpur (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority,
O/o The Additional Deputy Commissioner(Gen.),
Hoshiarpur(Punjab)

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 6449 of 2024

1/2

Date of RTI Application	Date of Reply, if any of SPIO	Date of First Appeal made, if any	Date of order, if any of FAA	Date of Second Appeal received in the Commission
01.08.2024	--	19.08.2024	--	08.11.2024

Present :

Appellant: Sh. Ravinder Kumar

Respondent: Surjit Kumar (Clerk)

ORDER:

1. This order may be read with reference to the Commission's previous order dated **30.10.2025**, wherein the matter was adjourned with a direction to both parties to remain present and the appellant was granted an opportunity to file a rejoinder, if any, to the written submission of the respondent.
2. Today, the appellant is present through **Webex** and submits that **no information has been provided to him till date**. On behalf of the respondent, the PIO is represented by **Sh. Surjit Kumar, Clerk** who reiterates the contents of the written reply already furnished to the appellant.
3. The Commission takes on record the reply sent by the Respondent PIO to the appellant vide letter ref. no. 03 dated 15.05.2025, wherein it has been informed that a regular inquiry in the matter is being conducted by the Office of the Principal Secretary, Local Government Department, Punjab, and that the inquiry report called for from the Municipal Engineer, Nagar Panchayat, Mahilpur has already been submitted to the said office. It has further been clarified that the information sought by the appellant forms part of the said inquiry proceedings.
4. After careful consideration of the submissions made by both the parties, the Commission observes that the respondent has **duly informed the appellant about the status of the matter** and the **non-availability of the inquiry report with the respondent public authority**, as the same is **under consideration before the competent authority**, i.e., the Office of the Principal Secretary, Local Government Department, Punjab.

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Appeal Case No. 6449 of 2024

2/2

5. It is a **settled position of law** that under the **RTI Act, 2005**, the Public Information Officer is obligated to provide **only such information as is held or available on record with the concerned public authority**. The Act **does not cast any obligation upon the PIO to create information, to procure information from another public authority, or to provide records which are not in its custody or control** at the relevant time.
6. In view of the **above facts and circumstances**, the Commission finds that the **respondent has discharged his obligation under the RTI Act** by duly apprising the appellant of the **factual position**. **No further intervention of the Commission is warranted** in the matter.
7. Accordingly, the appeal is **disposed of**.

Chandigarh
20.01.2026

Sd/-
(Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab