

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.

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V/s

....Appellant

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Executive Officer,
Nagar Council,
Kuruli,
Distt. – S. A. S. Nagar(Mohali) (Punjab)

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Executive Officer,
Nagar Council,
Sham Chaurasi,
Distt. – Hoshiarpur (Punjab)

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Executive Officer,
Nagar Council,
Bhadaur,
Distt. – Barnala, (Punjab)

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Executive Officer,
Nagar Council,
Balachaur,
Distt. – Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar (Punjab)

Public Information Officer,
O/o The Executive Officer,
Nagar Council,
Dhanaula,
Distt. – Barnala (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority,
O/o The Executive Officer,
Nagar Council,
Dhanaula,
Distt. – Barnala (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority,
O/o The Executive Officer,
Nagar Council,
Balachaur,
Distt. – Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar (Punjab)

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First Appellate Authority,
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Distt. – S. A. S. Nagar(Mohali) (Punjab)

...Respondents

Appeal Case No.

7271,7272,7273,7274,7275,7276,7277,7278,7279,7280,7281,7282,7283,7284,
7285,7290,7286,7287,7288,7289 of 2023

Present:

Appellant: Absent

Respondent:

1. Adv. Sukhchain Singh (Counsel)
2. Sh. Sukhdev Singh – Jr. Assistant, O/o Nagar Council, Kuruli, SAS Nagar Mohali
3. Sh. Rupinder Singh – Clerk, O/o Nagar Council, Bhadaur, Barnala
4. Sh. Simran Dhinsa – EO, O/o Nagar Council, Balachaur, SBS Nagar
5. Sh. Jagshir Singh – Clerk, O/o Nagar Council, Dhanaula, Barnala

ORDER:

1. The appellant filed the above-mentioned second appeals before the Commission, and the matters were fixed for hearing today. A **single interim order** is passed in these twenty appeals as the issues involved are substantially similar.

Facts Emerging During the Hearing

2. The appellant remained absent despite due notice and gave no intimation of absence.
3. Each appeal is taken up separately. The respondent parties were present and made oral and written submissions, which were endorsed to the appellant, stating that the information sought is **vague, voluminous, partly third-party in nature, and in some instances does not pertain to their departments.**
4. They further submitted that the appellant must first **specify the precise information required**; only then would it be possible for the authorities to provide the information. Their submissions have been taken on record separately.

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Observation & Decision:

5. After going through each case file separately and hearing the respondents, the Commission **agrees with the respondents' submissions**, observing that the information sought is **non-specific and voluminous**. The RTI applications appear to be based on a limited set of standard templates with only the district name altered. The information requested is broad and unspecific, involves multiple departments and third-party records, and would require extensive collation of data.
6. **Under Section 7(9)** of the RTI Act, 2005, information shall ordinarily be provided in the form requested unless such disclosure would disproportionately divert the resources of the public authority or endanger the safety or preservation of records.
7. In the absence of the appellant, and to ensure the principles of **natural justice**, the Commission grants a **final opportunity** to the appellant. The appellant is advised to **reframe the queries in a point-wise and specific manner**, in conformity with Section 2(f) read with Sections 2(i) and 2(j) of the RTI Act, 2005. The appellant shall file a **revised and specific application within ten (10) days** from the date of issue of this order. **Failing compliance by the appellant within the stipulated period, the Commission will proceed to decide these appeals ex parte on the basis of the available record.**
8. The concerned PIO/APIO of the respondent authorities may also file any additional or supplementary submissions, if desired, within the same ten (10) days.
9. This matter remains **pending**, and this **interim order** is issued to provide the appellant a final opportunity for compliance. **Orders are reserved in all the twenty (20) cases**, pending receipt of the appellant's revised application in each case and any further submissions from the respondent PIO/APIO.

Chandigarh
24.09.2025

(Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab.