

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.
Ph: 0172-2864116, Helpline No. 0172-2864100
Email: - psic21@punjabmail.gov.in
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Sh. Amandeep Singh, S/o Sh. Amrik Singh,
Village Post Office: Kalian, Tehsil Ahmedgarh,
District: Malerkotla. (M; 8264323832)
RTI Application No 116850

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o District Education Officer (Secondary Education),
Hoshiarpur.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o District Education Officer (Secondary Education),
Hoshiarpur.

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 4036 of 2024

Present: None for the parties.

ORDER:

The RTI application is dated 27.03.2024 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) on 27.04.2024 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 18.06.2024 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for today i.e. 26.11.2025 by the Commission.

2. Neither the appellant nor the respondent PIO is present at today's hearing. However, an email dated 31.10.2025 has been received from the respondent PIO vide which the appellant has given in writing that he is not interested in pursuing the matter and wants to withdraw the case. On the written submission of the appellant for withdrawal of this appeal, the instant Appeal Case is allowed to be withdrawn as per para 7 of Office Order dated 27.03.2018 of the Commission. The case is hereby **closed and disposed of**. Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Dated: 26th November, 2025

Sd/-
(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Sh. Sartaj Singh, S/o Sh. Joginder Singh,
R/o H.No. 251, Village Ghungrali Rajputtan,
Tehsil Khanna, District: Ludhiana. (M; 9417251959)

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,
O/o Sub Divisional Officer,
Punjab State Power Corporation (PSPCL), Sub Division City 2,
Khanna, District Ludhiana.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Senior Executive Engineer,
Punjab State Power Corporation (PSPCL), Khanna,
District Ludhiana.

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 4080 of 2024

Present: (i) Sh. Sartaj Singh, the appellant.
(ii) Sh. Raman Preet Singh, Revenue Accountant on behalf of the respondent PIO.

ORDER:

The RTI application is dated 05.04.2024 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) on 09.05.2024 and the second appeal was filed in the Commission on 19.06.2024 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for today i.e. 26.11.2025 by the Commission.

2. The appellant states that after the lapse of more than a year, complete information has not been provided to him.

3. The respondent PIO, represented by Sh. Raman Preet Singh, Revenue Accountant, states that first reply was sent to the appellant vide letter dated 09.05.2024 and another detailed reply was again sent to him vide letter dated 17.11.2025 mentioning therein that information on point no.1 & 3 has been provided but on point no.2, the information has been denied being third party information. Copy of the same is also handed over to the appellant.

4. After having detailed deliberations with both the parties and perusal of the RTI and reply filed by the respondent PIO, the Commission concurs with the reply of the respondent that information on point no.2 cannot be provided, being third party information which is exempted as per Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005 and rest of the information has been provided to the appellant. After hearing the averments of the respondent and on perusal of the facts on record, the Commission concludes that undoubtedly, the appellant is misusing the RTI act to settle personal scores with his former employer. The Commission

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rules that such vexatious applications can be summarily dismissed at the level of the CPIO since it is obvious that these applications are not being preferred in public interest and are in fact adversely impacting the functioning of the public authority instead of strengthening it, which is contrary to the letter and spirit of the RTI Act. A close scrutiny of the questions asked and the answers given shows that the information, as demanded, has been supplied in its entirety by the Respondent. The Complainant, however, is unnecessarily dragging the matter with some ulterior motive.

5. The appellant insisted on imposing penalty on PIO-Respondent and he should be compensated for the harassment in getting the information. Since there is no intentional or deliberate delay on the part of Respondent-PIO in providing the information, there is no justification to impose the same. That as per Section 20 of the Right to Information Act, 2005, penalty is to be imposed in the eventuality where a PIO fails to furnish the information within the statutory time without any reasonable cause or denies the information knowingly or with malafide intent, whereas, the respondent PIO has replied on 09.05.2024, within the stipulated period. An information seeker cannot demand imposition of penalty as a matter of right.

6. On going through the contents the reply filed by the PIO and scrutiny of the materials on record, the Bench of the view that no case for imposition of penalty upon the Respondent or for the award of compensation to the Appellant is made out. The PIO has been quite diligent in performing his official duties and the information demanded was quite voluminous. I, therefore, decline to impose any penalty upon the Respondent or award any compensation to the Appellant.

7. In view of the above, there is no further interventions is called for in the instant appeal case. The case is hereby, **disposed of and closed.** Copies of the order be sent to the parties.

Dated: 26th November, 2025

**Sd/-
(Pooja Gupta)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab**