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.. Appellant

Sh. Gurpal Singh

HL-638, Phase-9, SAS Nagar (Mohali) (M:9781800638)

Vs

Public Information Officer,

O/o Registrar, Punjab Nursing Registration Council, SAS Nagar

First Appellate Authority O/o Registrar, Punjab Nursing Registration Council, SAS Nagar

..respondent(s)

Present : None on behalf of the appellant.

Advocate, Sh. Ranjit Singh Kalra (9888989890) on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

This case may be read with reference to the previous order dated 26.09.2023. Earlier, the case was heard by Sh. Maninder Singh Patti, State Information Commissioner, who has demitted the office on 20.10.2023. Thereafter the case was allocated to this Bench. Accordingly, notice of hearing was issued to the parties for hearing for hearing on 27.02.2025 but was postponed due to administrative reasons and fixed for today i.e. 27.03.2025.

Appeal Case No. 1653 of 2023

2. The Counsel of the respondent submits that the appellant has passed away and the appellant cannot be substituted at this stage. Accordingly, the respondent PIO is directed to place some law/rules/judgments etc. in this regard before the next date of hearing to take the matter to its logical end.

3. The Station House Officer, Phase-8, Mohali is also directed to verify the fact that appellant, Sh. Gurpal Singh is alive or not and submit a report in this regard before the next date of hearing.

4. To come up on **08.05.2025 at 11:30 A. M. at Chandigarh.**

Date:27.03.2025

(Inderpal Singh) Chief Information Commissioner Punjab

CC:

Station House Officer Phase-8, SAS Nagar (Mohali)

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Sh. Hakam Singh

S/o Sh. Amrik Singh Village Ferozepur Kotala, District Malerkotla (M:9781517619)

Vs

..Appellant

..respondent(s)

Public Information Officer, O/o General Secretary, Sant Baba Attar Singh Khalsa College

First Appellate Authority

Sandhor, Malerkotla

O/o Principal Secretary, Higher Education & Language, Punjab Mohali

Appeal Case No. 806 of 2024

Present : Sh. Hakam Singh, the appellant.

Advocate, Sh. Harnoor Singh Sidhu (9501004968) on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

The RTI application is dated 23.09.2023 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 28.10.2023 and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 09.01.2024 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for hearing on 27.03.2025 i.e. today.

2. The respondent submits that he has received the intimation regarding Appeal Case No. 805 of 2024 but not for the Appeal Case No. 806 of 2024 and also submits Power of Attorney on behalf of the respondent PIO in Appeal Case No. 805 of 2024.

Accordingly, a copy of the notice of hearing along with copy of sought information is handed over to the respondent during the hearing. Accordingly, he is directed to file a point-wise reply pertaining to the RTI application before the next date of hearing to take the matter to its logical end.

3. To come up on **09.07.2025 at 11:30 A. M. at Chandigarh.**

(Inderpal Singh) Chief Information Commissioner Punjab

Date:27.03.2025 G

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Sh. Hakam Singh

S/o Sh. Amrik Singh Village Ferozepur Kotala, District Malerkotla (M:9781517619)

Vs

..Appellant

Public Information Officer, O/o Principal, Sant Baba Attar Singh Khalsa College Sandhor, Malerkotla

First Appellate Authority

O/o Principal Secretary, Higher Education & Language, Punjab Mohali

Appeal Case No. 805 of 2024

..respondent(s)

Present : Sh. Hakam Singh, the appellant.

Advocate, Sh. Harnoor Singh Sidhu (9501004968) on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

The RTI application is dated 18.09.2023 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 28.10.2023 and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 09.01.2024 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for hearing on 27.03.2025 i.e. today.

2. The Counsel of the respondent submits Power of Attorney, which is taken on record. Further, he submits that the sought information as available on record has already been supplied to the appellant. Accordingly, the appellant is directed to file the specific deficiency in the information so supplied by the respondent on/or before the next date of hearing.

3. To come up on **09.07.2025 at 11:30 A. M. at Chandigarh.**

(Inderpal Singh) Chief Information Commissioner Punjab

Date:27.03.2025 G

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Sh. Kuldeep Singh,

S/o Sh. Mangat Ram, Kot Shamir, Tehsil & Distt Bathinda-151001. M : 9781970189 RTI Application No 103536

Appellant

Respondents

Public Information Officer,

O/o AIGP, Vigilance Bureau, SAS Nagar (Mohali)

Public Information Officer,

O/o Punjab Subordinate Selection Service Board, Mohali

First Appellate Authority

O/o Director, Vigilance Bureau, SAS Nagar (Mohali)

Appeal Case No. 2112 of 2024

Vs

Present : Counsel, Sh. Supinder Singh Sohi (9888876660) on behalf of the appellant. Ms. Maninder Pal Kaur, Superintendent-cum-PIO (9855977460) on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 22.01.2025 and the relevant portion of the same is reproduced below:

- 2. The appellant submits that he has sought the information related to the recruitment of Steno Typist/Junior Scale Stenographer, in which there is complaint of copying and the leakage of papers in the personal Centers of the Instructors, the appellant submitted a complaint to the Vigilance Bureau, Punjab along with the pen-drive on 18.12.2023 and has sought the information related to the said complaint.
- 3. The above said information was sought by the appellant form the Vigilance Bureau, Punjab but the said complaint was sent to the Chairman, Punjab Subordinate Selection Service Board, Mohali by the Vigilance Bureau, Punjab to enquire the matter at their own level, so nothing was supplied by the Vigilance

1/4



Appeal Case No. 2112 of 2024

Bureau, Punjab but the representative of the SSSB made the submission during the hearing that the said letter has not been received from the Vigilance Bureau, Punjab. Accordingly the directions were issued to the Vigilance Bureau, Punjab to submit the proof of the receipt of the said letter. Thereafter, the respondent, O/o Punjab Vigilance Bureau submitted a copy of the receipt of the said letter, which was said to be received by the Chairman, Subordinate Selection Service Board, Mohali, thereafter, the respondent was given an opportunity to file the reply accordingly.

.4. In view of the directions of the Commission, the PIO, SSS Board filed the response and the relevant portion of the same is as follows:

"ਮੰਗੀ ਗਈ ਸੂਚਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਜਵਾਬ : ਇਸ਼ਤਿਹਾਰ ਨੰ: 01 ਆਫ 2022 ਸਟੈਨੇਟਾਈਪਿਸਟ ਅਤੇ ਜ.ਸ.ਸ. ਦੀ ਭਰਤੀ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਇੰਸਟਰੱਕਟਰਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਨਿੱਜੀ ਸੈਂਟਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੀਤੇ ਪੇਪਰ ਲੀਕ ਅਤੇ ਲੈਬ ਬਾਰੇ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਹੀ ਦੱਸਣ , ਬਾਰੇ ਵਿਜੀਲੈਂਸ ਬਿਊਰੋ ਨੂੰ ਭੇਜੀ ਪੈਨਡਰਾਈਵ ਤੇ ਅਰਜ਼ੀ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਸੂਚਨਾਂ ਭਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰ: - 01/03/2008-IR- Dated: 25-08-2008 ਦੇ ਪੈਰ੍ਹਾ-9 ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਉਪਲਬੱਧ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰਵਾਈ ਸਕਦੀ/"

- 5. As per the response, the respondent PIO also mentioned the instructions/guidelines issued vide No. 01/03/2008-IR dated 25.04.2008 although as per the letter of the SSSB the date has been mentioned as 25.08.2008. The relevant portion of the Guidelines (Para-9) as mentioned in the reply by the respondent is as follows:
 - "9. Only such information is required to be supplied under the Act which already exists and is held by the public authority or held under the control of the public authority. It is beyond the scope of the Act to create information;, or to interpret information; or to solve the problems raised by the applicants; or to furnish replies to hypothetical questions."

The said Instructions/Guidelines were issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Personnel and PG and Pension, Department of Personnel & Training to the officers designated as First Appellate Authority.



Appeal Case No. 2112 of 2024

6. Section 6 (1) provides:

A person, who desires to obtain any information under this Act, shall make a request in writing or through electronic means in English or Hindi or in the official language of the area in which the application is being made, accompanying such fee as may be prescribed, to—

(a) the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, of the concerned public authority;

(b) the Central Assistant Public Information Officer or State Assistant Public Information Officer, as the case may be, specifying the particulars of the information sought by him or her:

Provided that where such request cannot be made in writing, the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, shall render all reasonable assistance to the person making the request orally to reduce the same in writing."

Also, the mandate of the RTI Act is to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every Public Authority. As such the respondent PIO is directed to submit an action taken on the complaint received from the Vigilance Bureau else file an undertaking that no action has been taken on the said complaint.

7. Keeping in view the above, both the parties are at liberty to file their final submission in this case for consideration before the next date of hearing otherwise it shall be presumed that party/parties does not intend to say anything and the Commission will proceed as per the facts established by Law."

2. The Counsel of the appellant pleaded that the information sought does not relate to third party and para 59 of the judgment in Subhash Chandra Agarwal Vs. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India is not applicable in this case rather the information sought, which is in the 'Larger Public Interest', falls under the category mentioned in para 241 of the said judgment

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Appeal Case No. 2112 of 2024

3. However, the respondent PIO requested for an adjournment in this case to file the written/counter submissions. Accordingly, request is allowed.

4. To come up on **15.05.2025 at 11:30 A. M. at Chandigarh.**

Date:27.03.2025 G

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Sh. Gurpreet Guri Singh,

S/o Sh. Mewa Singh, VPO Sheron, Tehsil Sunam, Distt Sangrur-148106. M : 9501557415 RTI Application No 94050

Appellant

Public Information Officer,

O/o Chairman, SSSB, Punjab, Mohali

First Appellate Authority

O/o Chairman, SSSB, Punjab, Mohali

Respondents

Appeal Case No. 344 of 2024

v/s.

Present : Counsel, Sh. Supinder Singh Sohi (9888876660) on behalf of the appellant. Ms. Maninder Pal Kaur, Superintendent-cum-PIO (9855977460) on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 22.01.2025 and the relevant portion of the same is reproduced below:

"2. The respondent reiterated their submissions dated 26.12.2024 already sent to the appellant with a copy to the Commission. However, the appellant submits that each and every point of the RTI application is self explanatory but the department taken a plea that the sought information is not specific. With regard to Point No. 1 and 2, the Counsel of the appellant submits that two mistakes of word " ਭੁਲਾਂਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਲਈ " has been

marked as mistakes by the Instructor and the Instructor who checked the paper (offline) has corrected the word " ਭੁੱਲਾਂਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਲਈ " and has sought

the information on what basis/rules Instructor has marked the words " ਭੁਲਾਂਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਲਈ " as mistakes.



Appeal Case No. 344 of 2024

The Counsel of the appellant also contended that the appellant failed in qualifying the test just because of 02 mistakes and the information pertaining to Point No. 1 and 2 is very crucial and requested that the directions may be issued to the respondent PIO to provide the documentary evidence/source/base of these two words on the basis of which the words typed by the appellant i.e. " **ਭਲਾਂਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਲਈ** " marked as

mistakes.

3. The respondent while filing the written reply with regard to Point No. 3 claimed the exemption u/s 8 (1) (g) & (j) and in accordance with Para 59 of the decision passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Civil Appeal No. 10044 of 2010 titled as Central Public Information Officer vs. Subhash Chandra Agarwal. The relevant portion of the same is reproduced below:

"59. Reading of the aforesaid judicial precedents, in our opinion, would indicate that personal records, including name, address, physical, mental and psychological status, marks obtained, grades and answer sheets, are all treated as personal information. Similarly, professional records, including qualification, performance, evaluation reports, ACRs, disciplinary proceedings, etc. are all personal information. Medical records, treatment, choice of medicine, list of hospitals and doctors visited, findings recorded, including that of the family members, information relating to assets, liabilities, income tax returns, details of investments, lending and borrowing, etc. are personal information. Such personal information is entitled to protection from unwarranted invasion of privacy and conditional access is available when stipulation of larger public interest is satisfied. This list is indicative and not exhaustive."



Appeal Case No. 344 of 2024

However, the Counsel of the appellant contended that the said information is not covered under Para 59 of the judgment mentioned by the respondent PIO rather the said judgment is in the favour of the appellant, the relevant portion of the said judgment mentioned by the Counsel of the appellant is as follows:

"241 Clause (j) of clause (1) of Section 8 requires the Information Officer to weigh the "public interest" in disclosure against the privacy harm. The disclosure of different documents in different circumstances will give rise to unique "public interest" factors in favour of disclosure. However, a few broad principles may be laid out as to how the phrase "public interest" is to be understood. Where factors fall within this interpretation "public interest" so interpreted, they are factors that weigh in favour of disclosure. The principles are as follows:

(i) to (iv)...

(v) As an indicative list, information concerning the accountability of officials, public expenditure, the performance of public duties, the handling of complaints, the existence of any wrongdoing by a public official, inefficiency in public administration and unfairness in public administration all possess public interest value, their relative strength to be determined on a case by case basis; (vi) to (vii)...."

"242 We have adverted to the substantive content of personal information and "public interest" as distinct factors to be considered by the Information Officer when arriving at a determination under clause (j) of clause (1) of Section 8. In the present case, the information sought by the respondent raises both considerations of

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Appeal Case No. 344 of 2024

"public interest" and "personal information". The text of clause (j) requires the Information Officer to make a determination whether the "larger public interest justifies the disclosure" of personal information sought. The Information Officer must conduct balancing or weighing of interests in making a determination in favour of disclosure or non-disclosure. The Information Officer must be cognisant that any determination under clause (i) of clause (1) of Section 8 implicates the right to information and the right to privacy as constitutional rights. Reason forms the heart of the law and the decision of the Information Officer must provide cogent and articulate reasons for the factors considered and conclusions arrived at in balancing the two interests. In answering the third referral question in its entirety, this Court would be remiss in not setting out the analytical approach to be applied by the Information Officer in balancing the interests in disclosure with the countervailing privacy interests. Justice S C Agrawal speaking for a Constitution Bench of this Court in S N Mukherjee v Union of India observed:

> "9. The object underlying the rules of natural justice "is to prevent miscarriage of justice" and secure "fair play in action". As pointed out earlier the requirement about recording of reasons for its decision by an administrative authority exercising quasi-judicial functions achieves this object by excluding chances of arbitrariness and ensuring a degree of fairness in the process of decision-making. Keeping in view the expanding horizon of the principles of natural justice, we are of the opinion, that the requirement to record reason can be regarded as one of the principles of natural justice which govern exercise of power by administrative authorities. The rules of natural justice are not embodied rules." (Emphasis supplied)

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Appeal Case No. 344 of 2024

The requirement to record reasons is a principle of natural justice and a check against the arbitrary exercise of power by judicial and quasi-judicial bodies. In making a determination under clause (j) of clause (1) of Section 8 in a given case, it would not be satisfactory if an Information Officer were merely to record that the privacy interest outweighed the public interest. Something more is required. By providing an analytical framework to address the two interests to be weighed and requiring the Information Officer record detailed reasons within this framework, the arbitrary exercise or discretion of the Information Officer is guarded against."

With regard to Point No. 3, the appellant further submits that the said information must be supplied which is in the Larger Public Interest as the said paper which was checked/marked by the Instructor through offline mode in which he has marked two mistakes of word typed by the appellant i.e. " ਭੁਲਾਂਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਲਈ ".

Accordingly, the respondent PIO is directed to make the final submission, in this regard for the consideration.

4. With regard to Point Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, the Counsel of the appellant submits that the information has specifically been sought, which is very clear and respondent PIO be directed to supply the information. It is appropriate to mention the decision of the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in CWP 17672 of 2023 titled as Rajwinder Singh Vs. State of Punjab and others and the relevant portion of the same is reproduced below:



Appeal Case No. 344 of 2024

"12. This Court has found that in a large number of cases, the authorities including the first Appellate Authority {(while adjudicating the first statutory appeal under Section 19(1)} and the second Appellate Authority {(while adjudicating the second statutory appeal under Section 19(3)} under the Act, have been passing cryptic and non-speaking orders in violation of the judgments passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and various High Courts and also in violation of the mandate of the Act of 2005. It is, thus, found necessary to give the following directions to the first Appellate Authority and second Appellate Authority under the Act of 2005 to clearly specify the following at the time of finally adjudicating the case:-

- *i)* The points on which the information is sought by the applicant as per his/her application filed under the Act of 2005.
- ii) The point-wise reply with respect to the information sought.
- iii) A categorical finding as to whether the information on any of the points has been supplied or not and if supplied, the date on which it has been supplied.
- iv) In case, it is the stand of the authorities from whom the information is sought that the information sought under a particular point is not to be supplied on account of any bar contained in any provisions of the Act of 2005 or for any other reason, then, after recording the said stand and after considering the submissions made by both the parties with respect to said point/issue, return a finding with respect to the said issue/point.
- Any other observation which the authority deems fit in the facts and circumstances of the case to be recorded."



Appeal Case No. 344 of 2024

Keeping in view the above, the respondent PIO is directed to reconsider the matter and file the point-wise reply afresh regarding Point Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the RTI application. The respondent PIO is also directed that in case the result of the candidates related to the recruitment of Steno Typist as per Advertisement 01/2022, category wise, is not available on record, then the specific undertaking be filed before the next date of hearing. She is also directed to place on record the copy of Instructions/Guidelines issued to the Punjabi University, Patiala to fill up the post in the different categories along with relevant provision of the MOU, if any, else file an undertaking that no Instructions/Guidelines were issued to the Punjabi University, Patiala with regard to the reservation of posts.

5. With regard to Point No. 9 of the RTI application, the Counsel of the appellant pleaded that there are candidates who have been given the departmental preference and after the same their category has been changed from open category to their own category on the basis of departmental preference and has sought the information in this regard. However, the respondent PIO pleaded that the recruitment has been done on the basis of the Guidelines issued for the recruitment as per Advertisement No. 01 of 2022. Accordingly, the respondent PIO is directed to place on record the said provision/extract of the said guidelines issued for the recruitment as per Advt. No. 01 of 2022.

It is also appropriate to mention the provisions of the advertisement No. 01 of 2022, which are available on the website i.e. <u>www.sssb.punjab.gov.in</u> related to the recruitment of Steno Typist and Junior Scale Stenographer and the relevant provisions are as follows:

8. ਰਾਖਵਾਂਕਰਨ / Reservation ਸਬੰਧੀ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਹਦਾਇਤਾਂ:

 (ii) ਰਾਖਵਾਂਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਲਾਭ ਕੇਵਲ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਵਸਨੀਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਮਿਲਣਯੋਗ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ,
 ਇਸ ਲਈ ਸ਼੍ਰੇਣੀ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼੍ਰੇਣੀ-ਕੋਡ ਭਰਨ ਸਮੇਂ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰ ਇਸ ਗੱਲ ਦਾ ਧਿਆਨ ਰੱਖੇਗਾ। ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਭਰੇ ਗਏ ਫਾਰਮ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਰਜ ਸ਼੍ਰੇਣੀ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼੍ਰੇਣੀ-ਕੋਡ ਦੇ ਆਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਹੀ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਾਤਰਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਚਾਰਿਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।

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Appeal Case No. 344 of 2024

13. ਬਿਨੈਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਧਿਆਨ ਹਿੱਤ ਅਤਿ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹਦਾਇਤਾਂ:

 (x) ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰ ਸ਼੍ਰੇਣੀ ਅਤੇ ਇਸਦੇ ਕੋਡ ਅਤੇ ਅਸਾਮੀ ਕੋਡ ਦਾ ਧਿਆਨ ਰੱਖਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਆਨਲਾਈ ਫਾਰਮ ਧਿਆਨ ਨਾਲ ਭਰਨ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਸਟੇਜ ਤੇ ਸ਼੍ਰੇਣੀ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼੍ਰੇਣੀ-ਕੋਡ ਅਤੇ ਅਸਾਮੀ ਕੋਡ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕੇਗਾ।

After hearing both the parties and going through the provisions of the advertisement, the respondent PIO is directed that in case no candidate has changed his category as per the submissions made by the appellant regarding Point No. 9, then specific undertaking be filed on or before the next date of hearing to take the matter to its logical end."

2. With regard to Point No. 1 & 2, the respondent handed over the instructions for the test of Stenotypist/Junior Scale Stenographer based on computer in which it is categorically mentioned the Shabdkosh (म्रघटनेम्). She further categorically mentioned that the SSSB

followed the บุ**ภาโ**टส น์สาชิ สิห published by the Language Department. However, the Counsel

of the appellant submits that he is not satisfied and would like to make the submissions in this regard. With regard to the remaining Points i.e. 3, 4, 5, 6,7, 8 and 9, the respondent requested for an adjournment to comply with the order of the Commission dated 22.01.2025. Accordingly, the request is accepted and the case is adjourned.

3. To come up on **15.05.2025 at 11:30 A. M. at Chandigarh.**

Date:27.03.2025 G

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Sh. Gurpreet Guri Singh,

S/o Sh. Mewa Singh, VPO Sheron, Tehsil Sunam, Distt Sangrur.-148106. M : 9501557415 RTI Application No. 98929

Appellant

Respondents

Public Information Officer,

O/o Chairman, SSSB, Punjab, Mohali

First Appellate Authority

O/o Chairman, SSSB, Punjab, Mohali

Appeal Case No. 1300 of 2024

Present : Counsel, Sh. Supinder Singh Sohi (9888876660) on behalf of the appellant. Ms. Maninder Pal Kaur, Superintendent-cum-PIO (9855977460) on behalf of the respondent.

Vs

<u>ORDER</u>

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 22.01.2025.

2. The Counsel of the appellant requested for an adjournment in this case. Request of the

Counsel of the appellant is accepted and the case is adjourned.

3. To come up on 15.05.2025 at 11:30 A. M. at Chandigarh.

Date:27.03.2025 G

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..respondent(s)

Sh. Gurpreet Guri Singh,

S/o Sh. Mewa Singh, VPO Sheron, Tehsil Sunam, Distt Sangrur.-148106. M : 9501557415 RTI Application No.

..Appellant

Public Information Officer,

O/o Instructor, Language Department, Sangrur

First Appellate Authority

O/o District Language Officer, Language Department, Sangrur

Appeal Case No. 1722 of 2024

Present : Counsel, Sh. Supinder Singh Sohi (9888876660) on behalf of the appellant. Sh. Ranjodh Singh, District Language Officer on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 22.01.2025.

2. At the outset the respondent handed over the information comprising 09 pages to the Counsel of the appellant during the course of hearing.

3. After receipt of the information, the Counsel of the appellant requested for an adjournment in this case, which is accepted and the case is adjourned.

4. To come up on **15.05.2025 at 11:30 A. M. at Chandigarh.**

Date:27.03.2025 G (Inderpal Singh) Chief Information Commissioner Punjab

Vs

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden, Sector 16, Chandigarh. Ph: 0172-2864101, Helpline 0172-2864100 Email: <u>pcic20@punjabmail.gov.in</u> Visit us:www.infocommpunjab.com



Ms. Gurpreet Kaur

House No. 115, Sector-123, New Sunny Enclave, Kharar, Mohali (SAS Nagar) (M:9814806149)

Vs

.....Appellant

Public Information Officer,

O/o Director Public Instructions (SE), Punjab, Vidya Bhawan, PSEB Complex, Sector 62, Mohali (SAS Nagar)

First Appellate Authority

O/o Director Public Instructions (SE), Punjab, Vidya Bhawan, PSEB Complex, Sector 62, Mohali (SAS Nagar)

Appeal Case No. 3553 of 2024

<u>4</u>

...Respondents

Present : Advocate, Sh. Bachan Singh (8427755237) on behalf of the appellant. Sh.Gursewak Singh, Senior Assistant (9814614456) on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 16.01.2025.

2. The appellant submits that he has gone for the inspection of the record and only a selection list of candidate has been shown by the respondent PIO and nothing more has been shown. He further submits that the respondent stated during the inspection that only a selection list is available as the said selection list has been received from the Recruitment Board. He further submits that any other information, if so required then it will be in the custody of Recruitment Board. Further he submits that in case the PIO, O/o DPI (SE) does not have the information sought then he has to transfer the RTI application to the concerned Public Authority under Section 6 (3) of the RTI Act, 2005. However, the respondent submits that the information pertaining to Point No. 1 to 4 is not readily available and has to be created which is not the mandate of the RTI Act 2005. With regard to Point No. 5, the respondent submits that the same information has already been published on the website <u>www.educationrecruitmentboard.com</u>. With regard to Point No. 6 the respondent submits that the information sought is in the question form so nothing can be supplied to the appellant.

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Appeal Case No. 3553 of 2024

Accordingly, the respondent PIO is directed to file an affidavit, duly sworn that the information is available on the website and also submit the specific link of the same.

The respondent PIO is also directed to bring the court case file(s) related to CWP No. 22959 of 2016 and other attached cases decision of which was given by the Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court on 17.02.2023 for the inspection of the appellant as was directed during the last hearing i.e. 16.01.2025.

3. To come up on 03.07.2025 at 11:30 A. M. at Chandigarh.

Date:27.03.2025 G

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Sh. Jaswinder Singh, H. No. 241, Dashmesh Enclave, V.P.O. – Alamgir, Ludhiana – 141116 (Punjab) (M.9914600673)

.... Complainant

V/s

Sh. Gurpreet Singh Public Information Officer--cum-Tehsildar (East), Ludhiana (Punjab)

...Respondents

Complaint Case No. 564 of 2023

Present : Sh. Jaswinder Singh, the complainant in person.

Sh. Inderjeet Singh (M.-9914828960), Clerk, on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 16.01.2025.

The relevant portion of the same is as under :

"This order may be read with reference to the previous orders dated 03.07.2024, 28.08.2024, 16.10.2024 and 05.12.2024. Vide an order dated 16.10.2024, the following order was passed by the Bench, which is as under:- 2. The complainant submitted that he had visited the respondent's office many times as per the previous order of the Commission dated 09.05.2024 but no positive response had been received from the respondent PIO. Further, he has requested to direct the respondent PIO to supply the sought information. The complainant also submitted that the record related to the previous years was available in the office whereas the record related to the sought information was not available, which was not supplied to him and due to that there was a huge irreparable loss to him. 3. The respondent appeared and submitted that concerned person was on leave rather she also submitted that due to heavy rain in year 2011 particularly on 12.08.2011 record pertaining to the RTI application of the required information had been destroy due to heavy rain as record room was affected by rain water. 4. Complaint Case No. 564 of 2023 After having detailed deliberations with both the parties, the Commission was of the view that, it was very necessary to find out about whereabouts of the record. Accordingly, Ms. Sakshi Sawhney, Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana was directed to constitute a Committee comprising Senior Officer(s) to enquire about the record pertaining to the RTI application and

the said enquiry report be submitted to the Commission whether the sought information was available/traceable or not within 30 days from the date of receipt of this order. It was also to be determined that from which date, month, year and

Contd...2/-

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Complaint Case No. 564 of 2023

-2-

which record was not traceable/destroyed due to rain of the concerned office i.e. Tehsildar (East) Office, Ludhiana. After the enquiry whosoever be guilty, stringent action be taken against him. As per the submissions made by the respondent in case there was any report related to the damaged record of the O/o Tehsildar (East), Ludhiana as available in the office of DC, Ludhiana, the same may also be placed on record. Accordingly, the PIO, O/o DC, Ludhiana was also impleaded in this case to submit the same on or before the next date of hearing. He was also directed to remain present on the next date of hearing. Also, the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana was also directed to ensure the presence of the present PIOs concerned in this case."

2. The representative of the respondent submits that a Committee was constituted by the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana comprising SDM East Ludhiana, Tehsildar Ludhiana East and Superintendent Grade-2, o/o SDM, East, Ludhiana who was already enquiring the matter to trace the record. He had also requested for an adjournment of the case.

3. The relevant portion of the response submitted by the SDM, Ludhiana (East) which is as under:-

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਦੇ ਸਬੰਧ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਾਨਯੋਗ ਚੀਫ ਇਨਫਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਮਿਤੀ 3/7/2024 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਮਾਨਯੋਗ ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਜੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਇਕ ਤਿੰਨ ਮੈਂਬਰੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਦੇ ਆਦੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਹਨ, ਜਿਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਪ ਮੰਡਲ ਮੈਜਿਸਟਰੇਟ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਪੂਰਸੀ, ਤਹਿਮੀਲਦਾਰ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਪੂਰਸ਼ੀ ਅਤੇ ਸੁਪਰਡੰਟ ਗਰੇਡ-2, ਦਵਤਰ ਉਪ ਮੰਡਲ ਮੈਜਿਸਟਰੇਟ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਪੂਰਸ਼ੀ ਨੂੰ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਬਣਾਇਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਤਹਿਸੀਲਦਾਰ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਪੂਰਸ਼ੀ ਤੋਂ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਲਈ ਗਈ। ਤਹਿਸੀਲਦਾਰ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਪੂਰਸ਼ੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਆਪ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਦੇ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰਬਰ 88 ਮਿਤੀ 20/8/2024 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਭੇਜੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਅਪੀਲਕਰਤਾ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਜ਼ਸਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿਘ ਮਕਨ ਨੰਬਰ 241, ਦਸਮੇਸ਼ ਇਨਕਲੇਵ, ਪਿੰਡ ਤੇ ਡਾਕਖਾਨਾ ਆਲਮਗੀਰ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਵੱਲੋਂ 9 ਈ,ਸੀ ਸਰਟੀਡਿਕੇਟ ਨੰਬਰ 478 ਮਿਤੀ 18/12/2009 ਨੂੰ ਜਾਹੀ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਲੋਡੀਂਦੇ ਡਾਕੂਮੇਟ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਪ੍ਰਾਰਥੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ 2009 ਵਿੱਚ ਜਮ੍ਹਾ ਕਰਵਾਏ ਗਏ ਸਨ , ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਤਹਿਸੀਲਦਾਰ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਦੀ ਡਾਲ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ ਪ੍ਰੰਤੂ ਅਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਲੋਡੀਂਦੇ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋ ਸਕੇ।

ਆਪ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਮਾਧਿਅਮ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਮਾਨਯੋਗ ਚੀਫ ਇੰਨਫਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ,ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਚੰਡੀਗੜ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਧਿਆਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਲਿਆਇਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਪੂਰਬੀ ਦਾ ਦਫਤਰ ਬੇਸਮੈਂਟ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਣਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ। ਪਟਵਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਰਪਟ ਨੰਬਰ 851 ਮਿਤੀ 17/8/2011 ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਲਗਾਤਾਰ ਮੀਂਹ ਆਉਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਬੇਸਮੈਂਟ ਅੰਦਰ 4-4 ਫੁਟ ਤੱਕ ਪਾਣੀ ਭਰ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ ਜਿਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਬੇਸਮੈਂਟ ਵਿੱਚ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਜਿਆਦਾਤਰ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਨੁਕਮਾਨਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਉਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਦਾ ਕਾਫੀ ਨੁਕਸਾਨ ਹੋਇਆ ਸੀ। ਬਚੇ ਹੋਏ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਵੀ ਕਾਫੀ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਜਰਜਰ ਹਾਲਤ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੈ। ਉਸ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਕਾਫੀ ਸਵਧਾਨੀ ਨਾਲ ਅਪੀਲਕਰਤਾ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੰਗੇ ਗਏ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜਾਂ ਦੀ ਭਾਲ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਅਪੀਲਕਰਤਾ ਮਿਤੀ 6/8/2024 ਅਤੇ 7/8/2024 ਨੂੰ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਦਫਤਰ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਪੂਰਬੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਆ ਕੇ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਦੀ ਭਾਲ ਸਮੇਂ ਪੁਦ ਮੌਜੂਦ ਰਹੇ। ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਸਮੇਂ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੇ ਅਪੀਲਕਰਤਾ ਭਾਲ ਸੰਬਧੀ ਹਾਜਰ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਰਹੇ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਅਪੀਲਕਰਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਤਸੱਲੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਸਦੇ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਦੀ ਪੂਰਜੋਰ ਭਾਲ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ। ਅਪੀਲਕਰਤਾ ਦੀ ਹਾਜਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਸ ਤੋਂ ਬਿਨਾਂ ਵੀ ਸਬੰਧਿ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜਾਂ ਦੀ ਭਾਲ ਸੰਬਧਿਤ ਡੀਲਿੰਗ ਹੈਂਡ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਅਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਵੀ ਲਗਾਤਾਰ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਸੰਬਧੀ ਮੇਵਾ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਪਾਸੇਂ ਵੀ ਪੱਤਰ ਭੇਜ਼ ਕੇ ਅਪੀਲਕਰਤਾ ਦੀ ਉਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਅਪਲਾਬੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਰਸੀਦ ਜਾਂ ਹੋਰ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ(ਕਾਪੀ ਨੱਬੀ ਹੈ) ਪ੍ਰੰਤੂ ਸੇਵਾ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਮੈਨੇਜਰ ਪਾਸ਼ੇ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰਬਰ 568 ਮਿਤੀ 2/8/2024 ਵਿੱਚ ਇਹ ਸਪੇਸ਼ਟ ਕੀਤਾ ਗੀਆ ਹੈ ਿ

ਕ 2009 ਵਿੱਚ ਸਰਟੀਫਿਕੇਟ ਸੁਵਿਧਾ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਖੁੱਲ ਗਏ ਸਨ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਮੇਵਾ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਮੌਜੂਦ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ ਪ੍ਰੰਤੂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਇਹ ਸਪੱਸ਼ਟ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਕਿ ਸੁਵੀਧਾ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੌਜੂਦ ਰਿਕਾਰਤ ਹੁਣ ਕਿੱਬੇ ਹੈ।

4. After hearing both the parties, the directions were issued to the respondent-Public Information Officer to file the written response regarding the where about of the record of Suvidha Kendra and who was the custodian of the record of the said Kendra. The respondent Public Information Officer was also directed to bring the receipt register related to get the OBC certificate by Sh. Jaswinder Contd...3/-

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Complaint Case No. 564 of 2023

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Singh (appellant) s/o Sh. Harjinder Singh dated 18.12.2009 bearing No. 478 and in case no receipt register was maintained by the office for receipt of application for issuance of OBC certificate then an undertaking, duly sworn, be filed before the next date of hearing. It was also a fact that a report of the Patwari had been placed on record bearing No. 851 regarding the rain water and according to the said report Tehsil office had been informed accordingly, therefore, the Tehsildar, Ludhiana East–cum-Public Information Officer was also directed to submit an action taken by the then Tehsildar Ludhiana East on the report of the Patwari concerned.

5. It was also a fact that the respondent present during the hearing on 3.7.2024 categorically given the statement that the record had been destroyed due to heavy rain whereas as per the report of the then Patwari, which had now been submitted, the official record wet. Also, the Tehsildar East, Ludhiana was directed to lodge an FIR/DDR in respect of missing record, as per the Government Instructions/Rules and submit a copy of the same before the next date of hearing.

6. Also, the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana was directed to submit the up to date status of enquiry regarding the missing record/the details of record was has been affected by the rain water. In addition, she was also directed to send the details i.e. name, designation along with the official address of the custodian of the record related to Suvidha Kendra as the Manager Seva Kendra has already clarified that the record related to Suvidha Kendra is not available in the Seva Kendra.

7. The concerned Tehsildar, Ludhiana East, Sh. Gurpreet Singh, was also directed to comply with the order otherwise stringent action would be initiated against the concerned Tehsildar, even if, he was transferred.

2. At the outset, the respondent requested for an adjournment in this case as the office was unable to file the response due to Panchayat Elections. 3. Accordingly, the case was adjourned to 5th December, 2024 at 11:30 A. M. for further hearing. 2. At today's hearing, the complainant is present in person and states that direction may be issued to the respondent PIO to provide the information, as nothing has been given till date. 3. Neither the respondent PIO office of Tehsildar (East), Ludhiana is present nor has authorized any representative on his behalf for today's hearing. The respondent PIO has also not complied with any of the order passed by the Commission, which indicates the callous and irresponsible attitude of the PIO which has caused harassment to the complainant. 4. Viewing the attitude in dealing with the RTI application by the respondent in a casual manner, Public Information Officer, is, thus, issued a show cause notice to explain in a self attested affidavit as to why a penalty @ Rs.250/- per day of delay subject to a maximum of Rs.25,000/-, be not imposed under Section 20(1) of RTI Act, 2005 on him for causing willful delay/denial of the information to the RTI applicant. In addition to the written reply, the Public Information Officer is Contd...4/-

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also given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may take a note that in case he does not file his written reply and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission will proceed ex-parte. 5. Also, the Tehsildar, Ludhiana (East) is directed to made the submissions that what action has been taken by him to lodge an FIR/DDR in respect of missing record, as per the Govt. Instructions and Rules and submit a reply in this regard, in the Commission. In addition, he is also directed to file the specific factual reply as the respondent given the statement during the hearing on 03.07.2024 that the record has been destroyed due to heavily rain whereas at the later stage, the office submit the report/record of the Patwari according to which it is said to be wet.

6. Complaint Case No. 564 of 2023 It is also a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana was directed to submit the upto-date, status report of the inquiry regarding the record which is said to be affected by the rain water. Also, she was directed to send the details i.e. name, designation along with the official address of the custodian of the record related to Suvida Kendra, which was operational from 2009 to 2016 and after disclosure of the Seva Kendra were opened. But, no such report has been received from the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana. Therefore, one opportunity is granted to her to submit any documentary evidence which is available in the O/o Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana regarding the rain water entered in the premises of the Suvidha Kendra to Seva Kendra, if any, else file, a specific undertaking in this regard that no instructions/directions were issued to the staff of the Suvidha Kendra to hand over the record to Seva Kendra from 2009 to 2016 when the Suvidha Kendra were operational, be sent to the Commission, failing which, she will be directed for personal appearance.

7. A copy of this order is being sent to the Financial Commissioner Revenue, Punjab, who will ensure the presence of PIO-cum-Tehsildar, Ludhiana (East) on the next date of hearing, failing which stringent action will be taken against the PIO as per the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

8. It is also clarified that in case of absence of the respondent PIO on the next date of hearing, his presence will be procured by issuing BAILABLE WARRANTS and/or disciplinary action may be recommended in this case to the competent authority as per the procedure established by the Law."

2. The respondent present neither filed any written submissions nor given any satisfactory response with regard to the RTI application. Also, during the last hearing, Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana was directed to file the submissions as per para 6 of the last order,

Contd...5/-



Complaint Case No. 564 of 2023

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mentioned herein, but no submissions have been received from the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana. Accordingly, a last and **final opportunity** is awarded to the PIO O/o Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana to file his submissions as per para 6 of the last order, mentioned herein, within thirty days, failing which the decision will be taken ex-parte, on merit.

3. The PIO O/o Tehsildar, East, Ludhiana is also directed to make the final written submissions in this case, if any, within thirty days. He is also directed to send the names, designations, present place of posting of PIO-cum-Tehsildar (East), Ludhiana from the date of RTI application dated 24.04.2023 within thirty days. The respondent present during the hearing, Sh. Inderjit Singh assured to file the written submission in this case and also assured that the names of the PIOs/designations and present place of posting will also be submitted within thirty days.

4. The complainant is also at liberty to file his submissions, if any, within thirty days. failing which, the case will be decided on merit.

5. With this, the order in this case is '<u>Reserved'</u> and would be pronounced later on.

Date :27th March, 2025 R (Inderpal Singh) Chief Information Commissioner Punjab

: **CC**

i) Sh. Himanshu Jain, IAS The Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana (Punjab)

 ii) District Revenue Officer--cum-Public Information Officer, O/o The Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana (Punjab)

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Sh. Vakil Singh Malkana, Advocate, District Court, Chamber 806, 3rd Floor,, Block-B, Lawyer's Chamber Complex, Bathinda (Punjab) (M.-7508699088)

.....Appellant

Public Information Officer, O/o The District Forest Officer, Bathinda (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority O/o The Conservaoytr of Forests, Ferozepur (Punjab)

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5807 of 2023

Present : Sh. Vakil Singh Malkana, the appellant in person. Sh. Jaspinder Singh(M.-9988932619), Forest Guard, on behalf of the respondent.

Vs

<u>ORDER</u>

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 29.02.2024,

which was heard by Sh. Asit Jolly, State Information Commissioner, who has demitted the office on 09.07.2024. Thereafter the case was allocated to this Bench and the case is fixed for hearing today i. e. 27.03.2025.

2. The respondent PIO is present and made the written submissions that information has already been supplied to the appellant. However, the Counsel present on behalf of the appellant submitted the memo of appearance and requested for an adjournment to file the 'Power of Attorney'. Since the information sought is available in official record, therefore, a copy of the same is handed over to the Counsel of the appellant.

3. Keeping in view the above, the appellant is directed to file the point wise deficiency before the next date of hearing, if any, to the respondent PIO to enable him to remove the same before the next date of hearing. He is also directed to file the 'Power of Attorney' on or before the next date of hearing.

4. With this, the case is <u>adjourned to 28th May, 2025 at 11:30 A. M. for hearing at</u> <u>Chandigarh</u>.

> (Inderpal Singh) Chief Information Commissioner Punjab

Date :27th March, 2025 R

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Sh. Dhanna Singh, Ex-Sarpanch, S/o Sh. Kartar Singh, Vilage – Dhindsa, Tehsil – Moonak, Distt. - Sangrur (Punjab) (M.-9501296283))

.....Appellant

Public Information Officer, O/o The Tehsildar, Moonak, Distt. - Sangrur (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority O/o The Sub Divisional Magistrate, Moonak, Distt. - Sangrur (Punjab)

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5836 of 2023 of the appellant.

Vs

Present : None on behalf of the appellant. None on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 29.02.2024,

which was heard by Sh. Asit Jolly, State Information Commissioner, who has demitted the office on 09.07.2024. Thereafter the case was allocated to this Bench and the case is fixed for hearing today i. e. 27.03.2025.

2. None is present. The appellant has sought the following information. "ਵੇਚੀ ਗਈ ਜਮੀਨ ਦਾ ਤਵਾਦਲਾ ਨੀ ਹੋ ਸਕਿਆ ਨਾ ਕਿਮਤ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ। ਚੰਕਬੰਦੀ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟ ਹੁਕਮ ਦੀ ਕਪੀ ਲੈਣ ਦੇ ਸਵੰਧੀ ਗੁਰਦੇਵ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਛਤਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜ਼ੋਗੀਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿਆਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਜਮੇਰ ਸਿੰਘ s/o ਚੁੜ ਸਿੰਘ s/o ਜਵਾਲਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਢੀਡਸਾ ਕੁਲ 26 ਕਨਾਲ 6 ਮਰਲੇ ਹੈ। ਧੰਨਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਾਬਕਾ ਸਰਪੰਚ ਵਾਸੀ ਢੀਡਸਾ ਗੁਰਦੇਵ ਸਿੰਘ ਪਟਵਾਰੀ ਦੀ ਜਮੀਨ 26 ਕਨਾਲ 6 ਮਰਲੇ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਅੰਦਲ ਬਦਲ ਦਿਤੀ ਪੰਚਾਇਤੀ ਜਮੀਨ 154 ਕਨਾਲ 10 ਮਰਲੇ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਤਵਾਦਲਾ ਇਤਕਾਲ 1722 ਹੈ ਬਾਦ ਵਿਚ ਇਕੋ ਜੇਹੀ ਕਿਮਤ ਕਰ ਲਈ ਹੈ ਗੈਰਕਨੋਨੀ ਢੰਗ ਨਾਲ ਦਿਤਾ ਤਵਾਦਲਾ ਡਿਪਟੀ ਡਾਇਰੈਕੇਟ ਜਮੀਨ ਦਾ ਮੋਕੇ ਦੇ ਕਿਮਤ ਹਦਾਇਤ ਦਾ ਮਤੇ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਨਕਲ/ਅਧਕਾਰੀ ਦੇ ਔਡਰ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਦਿਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ ਜੀ"

3. None is present on behalf of the parties. It is also a fact that a show cause notice was issued to Sh. Parveen Kumar, Tehsildar and he was also directed to serve the show-cause notice to all Tehsildars who served on this post since the date of RTI application i.e. 24.11.2021. They all are directed to remain present in person but none of the respondent is present.

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Appeal Case No. 5836 of 2023

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4. So far as the information is concerned, partially it has been supplied i. e. the land was transferred from Gram Panchayat to Sh. Gurdev Singh etc. vide order dated 28.07.1982 as per the order of the Director, consolidation but neither a copy of the order nor any information related to this point i. e. point no. 1 of the RTI application has been supplied. As far as point no. 2 is concerned the respondent PIO made the submissions that land of 26 Canal 6 marlas of Sh. Gurdev Singh etc. was exchanged with Village Panchayat having 154 canal 10 marlas as per the order dated 28.07.2082 of the Director Consolidation and the appellant was advised to apply a copy of 'integal' in Sewa Kender, Sangrur if he intends to get a copy of the same.

5. Viewing the attitude in dealing with the RTI application by the respondent in a casual manner, Sh. Kulwinder Singh (M.9815542436), Naib Tehsildar(Addl. Charge as Tehsildar, Moonak)-cum-Public Information Officer, Moonak, is, thus, issued a show cause notice to explain in a self-attested affidavit as to why a penalty @ Rs.250/- per day of delay subject to a maximum of Rs.25,000/-, be not imposed under Section 20(1) of RTI Act, 2005 on him for causing willful delay/denial of the information to the RTI applicant and to show cause why a compensation under section 19(8) of the RTI Act,2005, may not be paid to the appellant for causing willful delay/denial of the information for detriment suffered by him.

In addition to the written reply, the Public Information Officer is also given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may take a note that in case he does not file his written reply and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission will proceed ex-parte.

6. Keeping in view the above, a copy of this order is **being sent** to the Financial Commissioner, Revenue to ensure the presence of the concerned Tehsildar, Moonak from the date of RTI application i. e. 24.11.2021. Also, a copy of this order is **being sent** to the Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur with the directions to ensure the presence of the concerned PIO-cum-Tehsildar, Moonak alongwith the original record related to the RTI application, a copy of which is

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also attached herewith. It is also clarified that in case of absence of the PIO-cum-Tehsildar, Moonak on the next date of hearing, a disciplinary action may be recommended to the competent authority.

7. With this, the case is <u>adjourned to 24th April , 2025 at 11:30 A. M. for hearing at</u> <u>Chandigarh</u>.

Date :27th March, 2025 R (Inderpal Singh) Chief Information Commissioner Punjab

- i) Sh. Anurag Verma, IAS Financial Commissioner (Revenue), Punjab Punjab Civil Secretariat-1, Chandigarh
- ii) The Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur (Punjab)

Encl:

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Sh. Iqbal Singh Rasulpur C/o Sh. Satinder Pal Singh Dhaliwal, Advocate, Street No. -4, Guru Nanak Nagar, Kacha Malk Road, Jagraon, Distt. – Ludhiana – 142026(Punjab) (M.-88722-00515)

.... Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer, O/o The Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority O/o The Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana (Punjab)

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 3529 of 2023

Present :

- Sh. Igbal Singh Rasulpur, the appellant in person. i)
- Sh. Tarsem Singh, A.S.I, (M.-9463202689); ii)
 - Sh. Balkar Singh, H. C. on behalf of the respondent.

ORDER

The RTI application is dated 11.02.2023 vide which the appellant sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority on 31.03.2023 and Second appeal has been received in the Commission on 30.05.2023 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 27.02.2025 but due to administrative reasons, the case could not be heard and further the case is fixed for hearing today i. e. 27.03.2025.

2. The respondent requested for an adjournment in this case as sufficient time is required to locate the information with which the appellant agreed to. The request is allowed. The respondent PIO is directed to file the reply/supply the information to the appellant by or on the next date of hearing.

With this, the case is adjourned to 30th April, 2025 at 11:30 A. M. for hearing at 3. Chandigarh.

Date :27th March, 2025 R

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Sh. Kabul Singh S/o Sh. Darshan Singh, Village - Mandolphul, Teh. & Distt - SriFatehagrh Sahib (Punjab) (M. 9463224638)

V/s

....Appellant

Public Information Officer, O/o The Jail Superintendent, Central Jail, Patiala (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority, O/o The Inspector General of Police (Jails), Pb., Punjab Police Head Quarter, Sector - 9, Chandigarh

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 5045 of 2023

Present : None on behalf of the appellant.

Ms. Gurjinder Kaur (M.-9041331263) on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

The RTI application is dated 24.04.2023 vide which the appellant sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority on 29.05.2023 and Second appeal has been received in the Commission on 01.08.2023 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 27.02.2025 but due to administrative reasons, the case could not be heard and further the case is fixed for hearing today i. e. 27.03.2025.

2. The respondent submits that the information as available on record has already been supplied to the appellant. She further submits that nothing more is available on record which could be supplied to the appellant. However, the appellant is absent but he has sent the written submissions that due to death of the husband of his sister, he is unable to attend the hearing as last rituals have to be performed. As such his absence is neither intention nor willful under the prevailing circumstances. The respondent also present during the hearing, submits that she will produce the registered postal receipt, if available, in the office. Accordingly, the respondent is at liberty to take any alternative steps to provide the information to the appellant.

3. With this, the case is <u>adjourned to 15th May, 2025 at 11:30 A. M. for hearing at</u> <u>Chandigarh</u>.

Date :27th March, 2025 R

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Sh. Gursharan Singh, # 133-L, Chandigarh Road, Near Namdev Bhawan, Khanna, Distt. Ludhiana(Punjab) (M: 9876400267)

.....Appellant

Vs

- Public Information Officer
 O/o The Headmaster,
 Govt. High School,
 Bhadla Nicha, Ludhiana(Punjab)
- ii) Public Information Officer O/o The District Education Officer (SE), Ludhiana(Punjab)
 - iii) Public Information Officer
 O/o The Director,
 Public Instructions (Sec.) Pb.,
 Vidya Bhawan, P.S.E.B. Complex,

Encl : RTI Sector 62, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority, O/o The District Education Officer (SE), Ludhiana(Punjab)

.....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 4247 of 2023

Present :

- t: Sh. Gursharan Singh, the appellant in person.
 - i) Megha Kirpal, Science Mistress (M.-9814385004);
 - ii) Sh. Kulbir Singh, Maths Master (M.-9855208645);
 - iii) Sh. Gurdarshan Singh(M.-9501866198) Clerk O/o D.E.O.(Sec), on behalf of the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 16.01.2025.

2. The respondent present submits that the office has received the communication yesterday from the D.P.I.(Sec. Edu.), mentioning that an enquiry has been entrusted in this case which is likely to take sufficient time as the decision in the enquiry is to be taken by the head of the department i. e. D.P.I.(Sec. Edu.), Mohali. However, the appellant submits that the said

Contd...2/-



Appeal Case No. 4247 of 2023 -2-

office may also be impleaded as necessary party in this case. Accordingly, the PIO O/o D.P.I.(Sec. Edu.), is impleaded as necessary party in this case to file the reply/supply the present status of the enquiry initiated against Sh. Jaswinder Singh. A copy of the RTI application is also **being sent** to the respondent alongwith this order.

3. With this, the case is <u>adjourned to 3rd September 2025 at 11:30 A. M. for hearing at</u> <u>Chandigarh</u>.

Date :27th March, 2025 R

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Sh. Suresh Chand Meena, H.No. D-123, Anand Vihar, Railway Colony, Jagatpura, Jaipur-302017. (M.6378357615)

V/s

....Appellant

Public Information Officer, O/o The Principal Secretary, Home Affairs & Justice, Punjab, Home-4 Branch, Pb. Civil Secretariat, Sector-1, Chandigarh

First Appellate Authority, O/o The Principal Secretary, Home Affairs & Justice, Punjab, Home-4 Branch, Pb. Civil Secretariat, Sector-1, Chandigarh

...Respondents

Appeal Case No. 2931 of 2023

Present : None on behalf of the appellant.

i) ii)

Sh. Joginder Kumar, Superintendent-cum-PIO (M.9814922155)

MsReena, Senior Assistant, (M.8872563703) for the respondent.

<u>ORDER</u>

Encl:

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 19.03.2025.

2. The respondent PIO reiterated the submission made by him on 18.03.2025, a copy of which was also sent to the appellant. The appellant is absent but his earlier submissions in this regard has already placed on record, a copy of which is handed over to the respondent during the course of hearing with the directions to reconsider the matter and file the reply afresh/supply the information to take the matter to its logical end.

4. With this, the case is <u>adjourned to 30th April, 2025 at 11:30 A. M. for hearing at</u> <u>Chandigarh</u>.

Date :27th March, 2025 R (Inderpal Singh) Chief Information Commissioner Punjab

Encl :