

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.
Ph: 0172-2864120



Email: psic25@punjabmail.gov.in Visit us: www.infocommpunjab.com

Sh Anil Kumar Singh,
Near PSPCL Complaint Centre,
Lorrey Adda, VPO Rahon,
Tehsil- Nawanshahar,
Distt SBS Nagar (M-94637-67583)

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o DC, SBS Nagar

First Appellate Authority
O/o DC, SBS Nagar

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 332 OF 2024

Present :- (i) Sh. Anil Kumar Singh the appellant
(ii) For the respondent: Sh. Harun, Assistant Office Kanugo (9501346002)

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous orders passed by the Commission.

2. Today the appellant Sh. Anil Kumar Singh states that no information has been given to him so far. He has also sent his submissions through email.

3. Respondent states that Appellant has already been informed that the government has fixed the revenue fees to procure such information, he should pay the fees and get the information

4. After hearing both the parties and going through the case file, it is observed that the appellant is seeking revenue documents under the RTI Act by making payment as prescribed under RTI Act. However, it has been noted that the Government has prescribed revenue fees for such documents and has defined procedure for this purpose. In view of the above of this situation, the appellant is advised to obtain these documents from Suvidha Kender after making payment of the revenue fees prescribed by the Government.

5. To support above version the judgment dated 30.12.2009 passed in **AC Nos. 98, 252 and 448 of 2009** by Division Bench, Punjab State Information Commission is as under:-



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"Of the many reasons for denial of the information by the PIOs, one of the grounds is that a well defined procedure, with a fee structure, already exists for obtaining copies of the documents sought by the appellants. Since an alternative route to get copies of documents is in position, the appellants should have gone through that route rather than apply for the information under the RTI Act. The rational given is that appellants could access the copies of documents sought by them under an existing procedure which is older in time than the RTI and for which the Government of Punjab has laid down complete infrastructure, prescribed proformas, designated officials, laid down schedule of fee and specified time caps for supply of copies for documents etc. Since this route for supply of copies of documents is in existence, recourse to RTI Act should not be resorted to or may be used only as an option of second resort. This stand of the respondents, however, is keenly contested by the appellants, who pleaded that RTI Act is an independent legislation enacted by Parliament to confer a right on citizens to seek information from Public Authority and existence of an alternative route is no bar to access information under RTI".

The Commission has also relied on the judgment passed in **CC No. 2014/2008** by SIC, Punjab State Information Commission. While denying excess under RTI Act, It was held:-

"It is observed that it was not the intention of the RTI Act, 2005, to make available documents which are already available on payment basis through the process laid down where the complete infrastructure, printed proformas, schedule of fees, time line and supervisory duties etc. have already been allocated for comparing of those revenue documents which are legal documents pertaining to property. It was not the intention that these documents should be made available at cheaper rate, but for that even for department where information was not available earlier, it should be made available. In case the Will is not available in the 'Muth' of the mutation, but is a registered one, a duplicate can be applied for. Duplicate copies of registered documents like Will and sale deeds etc. are available in the office of Sub registrar and pasted on the registers for long term preservation. They are also treated as true copies of the original. Therefore, applicant should apply for the same to the source indicated and adopt the RTI route only if the revenue authorities did not supply the information as per their own time line."

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6. In view of the aforesaid, no further cause of action is left, hence the above said appeal case filed by the appellant is **disposed of and closed**. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date :28.01.2026