

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864101, Helpline 0172-2864100

Email: psic20@punjabmail.gov.in Visit us: www.infocommpunjab.com



Sh. Yogesh Mahajan

S/o Late Sh. Kuldip Raj Mahajan,
President of Anti Corruption Council,
Opposite Water Tank Municipal Market,
Mission Road, Pathankot
M: 9814354649

...Appellant

V/s

Sh. Harinder Singh

Executive Engineer-Cum
-Public Information Officer,
Mandi Board Division,
Moga

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Chief Engineer (North),
Punjab Mandi Board,
Mohali

....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 2826 of 2025

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the order dated 19.05.2026 vide which the order was reserved to be pronounced.

1. The appellant sought the following information:

Grants Received /utilized in Division 06.01.2024 to 06.01.2025

- (i) Attested copies of Comparative statements approved by the competent authority for the works by E-Tendering/ online undertaken/ carried out between the period 06.01.2024 to 06.01.2025
- (ii) Attested copies of comparative statements approved by the competent authority for the works by Tender/ offline work by you have undertaken/ carried out between the period 06.01.2024 to 06.01.2025.

2. The appellant filed the RTI application to the concerned PIO but due to non satisfaction he filed the first appeal to the First Appellate Authority. Feeling aggrieved, he filed second appeal in the Commission. The case was adjourned number of times to take the matter to its logical end.

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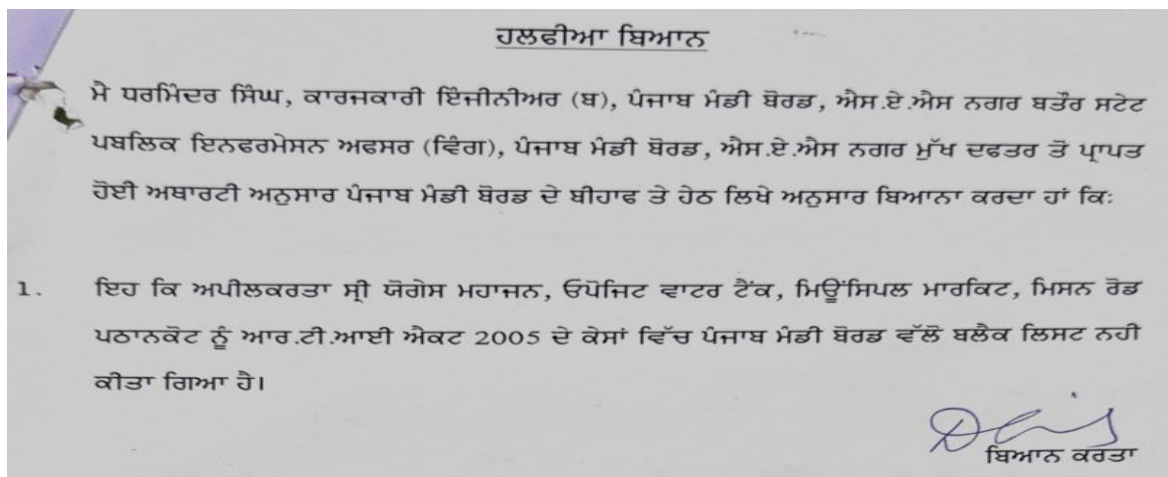
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3. During the proceedings of this case, the respondent pleaded that the information sought is voluminous and comprises third party information. However, the appellant contended that the information is not voluminous and also no personal information is in existence on the comparative statements as has been sought by him. He also pleaded that there are very few tenders published by the concerned division and reiterated the written submissions in support of his claim.

4. During the proceedings, the respondent brought the fact that the appellant has already been blacklisted but after reconsideration, the respondent filed an affidavit during the proceedings of this case that he (the appellant) was not blacklisted to file the RTI application. The relevant portion of the said affidavit is as follows:



5. After going through the submissions made by the parties, it is ascertained that the information i.e. comparative statements of any tender can be supplied where the tender process is finalized, the bid is awarded and/or work order has been placed. However, in case the comparative statement comprises the third party information i.e. TAN No. etc that can be severed under Section 10 of the RTI Act. The information sought is also liable to be disclosed as registered bidder whosoever have participated in the bid whether they are eligible or not, but they should have been entitled to the price comparison/evaluation to verify the transparency in awarding the contract as the mandate of the RTI Act is transparency and accountability.

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6. The information i.e. comparative statements can only be withheld where the tender process is going on and the contract has not been awarded and/or work order has not been placed in these cases, the comparative statements and the financial quotes are legally protected under Section 8 (1)(d) of the RTI Act that will deal with the exemption which includes commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of a third party unless the competent authority is satisfied that **Larger Public Interest** warrants to disclose the information.

7. Keeping in view the above, the request of the respondent is not acceptable to withheld the information. Therefore, the respondent **PIO-cum-Executive Engineer** is directed to provide the information within one month from the issue of this order duly certified.

8. Accordingly, the respondent PIO along with all the officers are exempted from all the liabilities, if any previous order reflects on them in this present appeal.

9. Also a copy of this order is **being sent** to the **Secretary, Punjab Mandi Board, Mandi Board Complex, Phase-11, Mohali** with the directions to look into the matter and take appropriate decision to publish all the comparative statements as has been ordered in compliance with Section 4 of the RTI Act, mandate of which is transparency and accountability in the functioning of the public authority.

10. Accordingly, the case is **disposed of and closed.**

Dated: 28.09.2026

(Inderpal Singh)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.

CC:

Secretary (by name),
Punjab Mandi Board,
Mandi Board Complex,
Phase- 11, Mohali