

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,

SECTOR 16, CHANDIGARH.

Ph: 0172-2864115, Email: - psic26@punjabmail.gov.in

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Shri Sanjeev Goyal, (9814197689)

(RTI Activist/Secy Grahak Jago)

S/o Shri Ashok Kumar,

R/o H.No 148, Model Town, Phase 1, Bathinda-151001

....Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Municipal Corporation,

Bathinda.

...Respondents

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0578 OF 2023

CISCO WEBEX Proceedings

PRESENT: Shri Sanjeev Goyal, Complainant.

Shri Deepak Mittal, Clerk (9463705043) on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

The RTI application dated 10.02.2023 vide which the complainant had sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. The complaint filed by the complainant in the Commission on 15.09.2023 under Section 18 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter called the RTI Act). Accordingly, the notice of hearing was issued to the parties for today i.e. 30.04.2025.

2. The respondent stated that the reply/sought information has already been sent to the complainant vide letter dated 28.04.2025, whereas the complainant stated that information sought has not been provided to him and further tendered a statement that his case may be remanded back to First Appellate Authority, copy of the same placed on record.

3. Post deliberations, the Bench observes that the complainant has not availed the provision of the Section 19(1) of the RTI Act by filing an appeal with the First Appellate Authority (FAA). As such, the FAA has not been able to address the grievances of the complainant. The attention of the Complainant is drawn to the decision of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India rendered on 12.12.2011 in Civil Appeal Nos. 10787-10788 of 2011 (arising out of SLP(C) No. 32768-32769/2010) – Chief Information Commissioner and another Vs. State of Manipur and another in para 31 whereof, it has been held that while entertaining a complaint case under Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005, the Commissioners have no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for an access to the information which is as under:-

31. *We uphold the said contention and do not find any error in the impugned judgment of the Hon'ble High Court whereby it has been held that the Commissioner while entertaining a complaint under Section 18 of the said Act has no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for access to the information."*

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-02-

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0578 OF 2023

As such, the complainant has approached the Commission under the provisions of Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005, no directions for providing further information can be given by the Commission.

4. Since there is an alternative and efficacious remedy of First Appeal available to the Complainant under Section 19(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 which has not been availed in the instant complaint case and the First Appellate Authority has not had the occasion to review the decision of PIO, as envisaged under the RTI Act by passing a detailed well reasoned speaking order.

5. Singh the complainant has requested to remand back his case to the First Appellate Authority, therefore, the instant matter is remanded back to the **First Appellate Authority i.e. Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bathinda**. The Commission hereby directs the FAA to treat the copy of the Complaint (enclosed herewith) as the First Appeal and decide the matter in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act after giving all concerned parties an opportunity to be heard.

6. In case, the complainant is not satisfied with the decision and/or he does not receive the order of the First Appellate Authority, he is at liberty to file second appeal before Punjab State Information Commission Section 19(3) of the RTI Act, 2005.

7. In view of the above, **the case is disposed of and closed.**

**CHANDIGARH
30.04.2025**

Sd/-
(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy of above is forwarded to the following (Regd. Post):

**The First Appellate Authority – cum –
Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation, Bathinda.**

for information and necessary compliance. RTI application dated 10.02.2023 is enclosed.

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(RTI Activist/Secy Grahak Jago)

S/o Shri Ashok Kumar,

R/o H.No 148, Model Town, Phase 1, Bathinda-151001

....Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Municipal Corporation,

Bathinda.

...Respondents

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0580 OF 2023

CISCO WEBEX Proceedings

PRESENT: Shri Sanjeev Goyal, Complainant.

Shri Deepak Mittal, Clerk (9463705043) on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

The RTI application dated 03.03.2023 vide which the complainant had sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. The complaint filed by the complainant in the Commission on 15.09.2023 under Section 18 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter called the RTI Act). Accordingly, the notice of hearing was issued to the parties for today i.e. 30.04.2025.

2. The respondent stated that the reply/sought information has already been sent to the complainant vide letter dated 31.03.2023, whereas the complainant stated that information sought has not been provided to him and further tendered a statement that his case may be remanded back to the First Appellate Authority, copy of the same placed on record.

3. Post deliberations, the Bench observes that the complainant has not availed the provision of the Section 19(1) of the RTI Act by filing an appeal with the First Appellate Authority (FAA). As such, the FAA has not been able to address the grievances of the complainant. The attention of the Complainant is drawn to the decision of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India rendered on 12.12.2011 in Civil Appeal Nos. 10787-10788 of 2011 (arising out of SLP(C) No. 32768-32769/2010) – Chief Information Commissioner and another Vs. State of Manipur and another in para 31 whereof, it has been held that while entertaining a complaint case under Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005, the Commissioners have no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for an access to the information which is as under:-

31. *We uphold the said contention and do not find any error in the impugned judgment of the Hon'ble High Court whereby it has been held that the Commissioner while entertaining a complaint under Section 18 of the said Act has no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for access to the information."*

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-02-

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0580 OF 2023

As such, the complainant has approached the Commission under the provisions of Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005, no directions for providing further information can be given by the Commission.

4. Since there is an alternative and efficacious remedy of First Appeal available to the Complainant under Section 19(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 which has not been availed in the instant complaint case and the First Appellate Authority has not had the occasion to review the decision of PIO, as envisaged under the RTI Act by passing a detailed well reasoned speaking order.

5. Since the complainant has requested to remand back his case to the First Appellate Authority, therefore, matter is remanded back to the **First Appellate Authority i.e. Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bathinda**. The Commission hereby directs the FAA to treat the copy of the Complaint (enclosed herewith) as the First Appeal and decide the matter in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act after giving all concerned parties an opportunity to be heard.

6. In case, the complainant is not satisfied with the decision and/or he does not receive the order of the First Appellate Authority, he is at liberty to file second appeal before Punjab State Information Commission Section 19(3) of the RTI Act, 2005.

7. In view of the above, **the case is disposed of and closed.**

CHANDIGARH
30.04.2025

Sd/-
(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy of above is forwarded to the following (Regd. Post):

The First Appellate Authority – cum –
Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation, Bathinda.

for information and necessary compliance. RTI application dated 03.03.2023 is enclosed.

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(RTI Activist/Secy Grahak Jago)

S/o Shri Ashok Kumar,

R/o H.No 148, Model Town, Phase 1, Bathinda-151001

....Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Municipal Corporation,

Bathinda.

...Respondents

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0584 OF 2023

CISCO WEBEX Proceedings

PRESENT: Shri Sanjeev Goyal, Complainant.

Shri Deepak Mittal, Clerk (9463705043) on behalf of the Respondents.

ORDER:

The RTI application dated 17.02.2023 vide which the complainant had sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. The complaint filed by the complainant in the Commission on 15.09.2023 under Section 18 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter called the RTI Act). Accordingly, the notice of hearing was issued to the parties for today i.e. 30.04.2025.

2. The respondent stated that the reply/sought information has already been sent to the complainant vide letter dated 26.04.2023, whereas the complainant stated that information sought has not been provided to him and further tendered a statement that his case may be remanded back to First Appellate Authority, copy of the same placed on record.

3. Post deliberations, the Bench observes that the complainant has not availed the provision of the Section 19(1) of the RTI Act by filing an appeal with the First Appellate Authority (FAA). As such, the FAA has not been able to address the grievances of the complainant. The attention of the Complainant is drawn to the decision of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India rendered on 12.12.2011 in Civil Appeal Nos. 10787-10788 of 2011 (arising out of SLP(C) No. 32768-32769/2010) – Chief Information Commissioner and another Vs. State of Manipur and another in para 31 whereof, it has been held that while entertaining a complaint case under Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005, the Commissioners have no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for an access to the information which is as under:-

31. *We uphold the said contention and do not find any error in the impugned judgment of the Hon'ble High Court whereby it has been held that the Commissioner while entertaining a complaint under Section 18 of the said Act has no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for access to the information."*

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COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0584 OF 2023

As such, the complainant has approached the Commission under the provisions of Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005, no directions for providing further information can be given by the Commission.

4. Since there is an alternative and efficacious remedy of First Appeal available to the Complainant under Section 19(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 which has not been availed in the instant complaint case and the First Appellate Authority has not had the occasion to review the decision of PIO, as envisaged under the RTI Act by passing a detailed well reasoned speaking order.

5. Since the complainant has requested to remand back his case to the First Appellate Authority, therefore, matter is remanded back to the **First Appellate Authority i.e. Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bathinda**. The Commission hereby directs the FAA to treat the copy of the Complaint (enclosed herewith) as the First Appeal and decide the matter in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act after giving all concerned parties an opportunity to be heard.

6. In case, the complainant is not satisfied with the decision and/or he does not receive the order of the First Appellate Authority, he is at liberty to file second appeal before Punjab State Information Commission Section 19(3) of the RTI Act, 2005.

7. In view of the above, **the case is disposed of and closed.**

CHANDIGARH
30.04.2025

Sd/-
(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy of above is forwarded to the following (Regd. Post):

The First Appellate Authority – cum –
Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation, Bathinda.

for information and necessary compliance. RTI application dated 17.02.2023 is enclosed.

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(RTI Activist/Secy Grahak Jago)

S/o Shri Ashok Kumar,

R/o H.No 148, Model Town, Phase 1, Bathinda-151001

....Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Information and Public Relations Department Punjab,

Punjab Civil Secretariat, Sector 1, Chandigarh.

...Respondent

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0579 OF 2023

CISCO WEBEX Proceedings

PRESENT: Shri Sanjeev Goyal, Complainant.
None on behalf of the Respondent.

ORDER:

The RTI application dated 20.06.2023 vide which the complainant had sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. The complaint filed by the complainant in the Commission on 15.09.2023 under Section 18 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter called the RTI Act). Accordingly, the notice of hearing was issued to the parties for today i.e. 30.04.2025.

2. The PIO has been absent in today's Court hearing, however, the hearing notice sent to the respondent was returned with remarks that 'Addressee left and the same is being returned to the sender' whereas the complainant stated that information sought has not been provided to him and further tendered a statement that his case may be remanded back to First Appellate Authority, copy of the same placed on record.

3. Post deliberations, the Bench observes that the complainant has not availed the provision of the Section 19(1) of the RTI Act by filing an appeal with the First Appellate Authority (FAA). As such, the FAA has not been able to address the grievances of the complainant. The attention of the Complainant is drawn to the decision of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India rendered on 12.12.2011 in Civil Appeal Nos. 10787-10788 of 2011 (arising out of SLP(C) No. 32768-32769/2010) – Chief Information Commissioner and another Vs. State of Manipur and another in para 31 whereof, it has been held that while entertaining a complaint case under Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005, the Commissioners have no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for an access to the information which is as under:-

31. *We uphold the said contention and do not find any error in the impugned judgment of the Hon'ble High Court whereby it has been held that the Commissioner while entertaining a complaint under Section 18 of the said Act has no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for access to the information."*

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-02-

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0579 OF 2023

As such, since the complainant has approached the Commission under the provisions of Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005, no directions for providing further information can be given by the Commission.

4. Since there is an alternative and efficacious remedy of First Appeal available to the Complainant under Section 19(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 which has not been availed in the instant complaint case and the First Appellate Authority has not had the occasion to review the decision of PIO, as envisaged under the RTI Act by passing a detailed well reasoned speaking order.

5. Since the complainant has requested to remand back his case to the First Appellate Authority, therefore, matter is remanded back to the **First Appellate Authority i.e. Information and Public Relations Department Punjab, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Sector 1, Chandigarh.** The Commission hereby directs the FAA to treat the copy of the Complaint (enclosed herewith) as the First Appeal and decide the matter in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act after giving all concerned parties an opportunity to be heard.

6. In case, the complainant is not satisfied with the decision and/or he does not receive the order of the First Appellate Authority, he is at liberty to file second appeal before Punjab State Information Commission Section 19(3) of the RTI Act, 2005.

7. In view of the above, **the case is disposed of and closed.**

CHANDIGARH
30.04.2025

Sd/-
(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy of above is forwarded to the following (Regd. Post):

The First Appellate Authority – cum –
Information and Public Relations Department Punjab,
Punjab Civil Secretariat, Sector 1, Chandigarh.

for information and necessary compliance. RTI application dated 20.06.2023 is enclosed.

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Shri Sanjeev Goyal, (9814197689)

(RTI Activist/Secy Grahak Jago)

S/o Shri Ashok Kumar,

R/o H.No 148, Model Town, Phase 1, Bathinda-151001

....Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Additional Deputy Commissioner (D),

Zila Parishad Building, G.T.Road, Bathinda.

...Respondents

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0583 OF 2023.

CISCO WEBEX Proceedings

PRESENT: Shri Sanjeev Goyal, Complainant.
None on behalf of the Respondent.

ORDER:

The RTI application dated 27.03.2023 vide which the complainant had sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. The complaint filed by the complainant in the Commission on 15.09.2023 under Section 18 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter called the RTI Act). Accordingly, the notice of hearing was issued to the parties for today i.e. 30.04.2025.

2. The PIO has been absent in today's Court hearing whereas the complainant stated that information sought has not been provided to him and further tendered a statement that his case may be remanded back to First Appellate Authority, copy of the same placed on record.

3. Post deliberations, the Bench observes that the complainant has not availed the provision of the Section 19(1) of the RTI Act by filing an appeal with the First Appellate Authority (FAA). As such, the FAA has not been able to address the grievances of the complainant. The attention of the Complainant is drawn to the decision of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India rendered on 12.12.2011 in Civil Appeal Nos. 10787-10788 of 2011 (arising out of SLP(C) No. 32768-32769/2010) – Chief Information Commissioner and another Vs. State of Manipur and another in para 31 whereof, it has been held that while entertaining a complaint case under Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005, the Commissioners have no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for an access to the information which is as under:-

31. *We uphold the said contention and do not find any error in the impugned judgment of the Hon'ble High Court whereby it has been held that the Commissioner while entertaining a complaint under Section 18 of the said Act has no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for access to the information."*

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-02-

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0583 OF 2023

As such, the complainant has approached the Commission under the provisions of Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005, no directions for providing further information can be given by the Commission.

4. Since there is an alternative and efficacious remedy of First Appeal available to the Complainant under Section 19(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 which has not been availed in the instant complaint case and the First Appellate Authority has not had the occasion to review the decision of PIO, as envisaged under the RTI Act by passing a detailed well reasoned speaking order.

5. Since the complainant has requested to remand back his case to the First Appellate Authority, therefore, matter is remanded back to the **First Appellate Authority i.e. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development), Bathinda**. The Commission hereby directs the FAA to treat the copy of the Complaint (enclosed herewith) as the First Appeal and decide the matter in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act after giving all concerned parties an opportunity to be heard.

6. In case, the complainant is not satisfied with the decision and/or he does not receive the order of the First Appellate Authority, he is at liberty to file second appeal before Punjab State Information Commission Section 19(3) of the RTI Act, 2005.

7. In view of the above, **the case is disposed of and closed.**

CHANDIGARH
30.04.2025

Sd/-
(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy of above is forwarded to the following (Regd. Post):

The First Appellate Authority – cum –
Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development),
Zila Parishad Building, G.T.Road, Bathinda.

for information and necessary compliance. RTI application dated 27.03.2023 is enclosed.

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

RED CROSS BUILDING, NEAR ROSE GARDEN,

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Shri Pankaj Kumar,
S/o Shri Nabh Singh,
R/o # MCB Z-603225, Gali No. 1-B,
Surakhpeer Road, Bathinda-151001

...Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Bathinda Development Authority,
Bhagu Road, Bathinda.

...Respondents

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0585 OF 2023 **(CISCO WEBEX PROCEEDINGS)**

PRESENT: None on behalf of the Complainant.
Shri Balkaran Singh Mahal, Estate Officer for the Respondents.

ORDER:

The RTI application dated 04.01.2023 vide which the complainant had sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. The complaint filed by the complainant in the Commission on 15.09.2023 under Section 18 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter called the RTI Act). Accordingly, the notice of hearing was issued to the parties for today i.e. 30.04.2025.

2. The complainant has been absent in Court hearing whereas the respondent stated that the complainant was asked to deposit the documentation fee of Rs. 140/- vide letter dated 17.02.2023 but the complainant did not turn up, copy of the same placed on record.

3. Post deliberations, the Bench observes that the complainant has not availed the provision of the Section 19(1) of the RTI Act by filing an appeal with the First Appellate Authority (FAA). As such, the FAA has not been able to address the grievances of the complainant. The attention of the Complainant is drawn to the decision of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India rendered on 12.12.2011 in Civil Appeal Nos. 10787-10788 of 2011 (arising out of SLP(C) No. 32768-32769/2010) – Chief Information Commissioner and another Vs. State of Manipur and another in para 31 whereof, it has been held that while entertaining a complaint case under Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005, the Commissioners have no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for an access to the information which is as under:-

31. *We uphold the said contention and do not find any error in the impugned judgment of the Hon'ble High Court whereby it has been held that the Commissioner while entertaining a complaint under Section 18 of the said Act has no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for access to the information."*

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-02-

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0585 OF 2023

As such, the complainant has approached the Commission under the provisions of Section 18 of the RTI Act 2005, no directions for providing further information can be given by the Commission.

4. Since there is an alternative and efficacious remedy of First Appeal available to the Complainant under Section 19(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 which has not been availed in the instant complaint case and the First Appellate Authority has not had the occasion to review the decision of PIO, as envisaged under the RTI Act by passing a detailed well reasoned speaking order.

5. The instant matter is remanded back to the **First Appellate Authority i.e. Bathinda Development Authority, Bathinda**. The Commission hereby directs the FAA to treat the copy of the Complaint (enclosed herewith) as the First Appeal and decide the matter in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act after giving all concerned parties an opportunity to be heard.

6. In case, the complainant is not satisfied with the decision and/or he does not receive the order of the First Appellate Authority, he is at liberty to file second appeal before Punjab State Information Commission Section 19(3) of the RTI Act, 2005.

7. In view of the above, **the case is disposed of and closed.**

CHANDIGARH
30.04.2025

Sd/-
(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy of above is forwarded to the following (Regd. Post):

The First Appellate Authority – cum –
Bathinda Development Authority,
Bathinda.

for information and necessary compliance. RTI application dated 04.01.2023 is enclosed.

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Shri Manjit Singh, (9876576210)

S/o Shri Gurnam Singh,

R/o Village Harayu , Guru Arjan Nagar,

Tehsil Patran, Distt Patiala-147105

...Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Panchayat Secretary, Gram Panchayat,

Guru Arjan Nagar, Harayu Khurd Block Patran,

Distt Patiala.

...Respondents

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0610 OF 2023

PRESENT: None for the Parties.

ORDER:

The RTI application is dated 02.01.2023 vide which the complainant had sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. The complaint filed by the complainant in the Commission on 05.10.2023 under Section 18 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter called the RTI Act). Accordingly, the notice of hearing was issued to the parties for today i.e. 30.04.2025.

2. The respondent has been absent in today's Court hearing, however, an email has been received from the respondent mentioning therein that the information as sought by the complainant has already been supplied and the complainant acknowledged the same in writing, copy of the same placed on record.

3. Despite adequate notice for the hearing, the complainant being not present in the Court, shows that he does not want to pursue his case further. It is presumed that the complainant is satisfied with the information provided by the PIO.

4. Keeping in view the above, the Commission is of the view that no further action is required to be taken in this case. Hence, the case is **disposed of and closed**.

CHANDIGARH
30.04.2025

Sd/-
(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

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Shri P.D. Bansal, (9855783747)

President LOK Sewa Club,

94, City Homes Colony,

Near Spring Dale School, Khanna-141401

...Complainant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Principal Secretary,

Department of Local Body Government, Punjab,

Municipal Bhawan, Sector 35A, Chandigarh.

...Respondent

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0612 OF 2023

PRESENT: None on behalf of the Complainant.

Shri Rajiv Sagar, Superintendent (9815315500) on behalf of the Respondent.

ORDER:

The RTI application dated 29.05.2023 vide which the complainant had sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. The complaint filed by the complainant in the Commission on 05.10.2023 under Section 18 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter called the RTI Act). Accordingly, the notice of hearing was issued to the parties for today i.e. 30.04.2025.

2. The complainant has been absent in Court hearing whereas the respondent stated that the information as demanded by the complainant is under consideration and cannot be provided to complainant due covered under section 8 (1) (H) of the RTI Act, 2005, and has already been conveyed to the complainant vide letter dated 20.06.2023, copy of the same placed on record.

3. Post deliberations, the Bench observes that the complainant has not availed the provision of the Section 19(1) of the RTI Act by filing an appeal with the First Appellate Authority (FAA). As such, the FAA has not been able to address the grievances of the complainant. The attention of the Complainant is drawn to the decision of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India rendered on 12.12.2011 in Civil Appeal Nos. 10787-10788 of 2011 (arising out of SLP(C) No. 32768-32769/2010) – Chief Information Commissioner and another Vs. State of Manipur and another in para 31 whereof, it has been held that while entertaining a complaint case under Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005, the Commissioners have no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for an access to the information which is as under:-

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-02-

COMPLAINT CASE NO. 0612OF 2023

31. *We uphold the said contention and do not find any error in the impugned judgment of the Hon'ble High Court whereby it has been held that the Commissioner while entertaining a complaint under Section 18 of the said Act has no jurisdiction to pass an order providing for access to the information."*

As such, the complainant has approached the Commission under the provisions of Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005 no directions for providing further information can be given by the Commission.

4. Since there is an alternative and efficacious remedy of First Appeal available to the Complainant under Section 19(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 which has not been availed in the instant complaint case and the First Appellate Authority has not had the occasion to review the decision of PIO, as envisaged under the RTI Act by passing a detailed well reasoned speaking order.

5. The instant matter is remanded back to the **First Appellate Authority i.e. Principal Secretary, Department of Local Body Government, Punjab**. The Commission hereby directs the FAA to treat the copy of the Complaint (enclosed herewith) as the First Appeal and decide the matter in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act after giving all concerned parties an opportunity to be heard.

6. In case, the complainant is not satisfied with the decision and/or he does not receive the order of the First Appellate Authority, he is at liberty to file second appeal before Punjab State Information Commission Section 19(3) of the RTI Act, 2005.

7. In view of the above, **the case is disposed of and closed.**

Sd/-

CHANDIGARH
30.04.2025

(HARPREET SINGH SANDHU)
State Information Commissioner, Punjab

Copy of above is forwarded to the following (Regd. Post):

The First Appellate Authority – cum –
Principal Secretary,
Department of Local Body Government, Punjab,
Municipal Bhawan, Sector 35A, Chandigarh.

for information and necessary compliance. RTI application dated 29.05.2023 is enclosed.