

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. Sahib Singh, S/o Sh. Gurdiyal Singh,

R/o Village Jallo Ke , PO Bare Ke Block,

Tehsil & Distt Ferozepur.-152002.

M: 9417626662

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,

O/o Block Development and Panchayat Officer

Ferozepur.

First Appellate Authority,

O/o District Development and Panchayat Officer

Ferozepur.

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 5600 OF 2022

ORDER

The case was heard on 02.04.2026 and order was **reserved**.

In this appeal case i.e. AC No. 5600 of 2022 the Appellant had sought the following information from the PIO, O/o BDPO, Ferozepur on 17.06.2022.

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



APPEAL CASE NO. 5600 OF 2022

ਸੂਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਅਧਿਕਾਰ, ਐਕਟ 2005

To be detached and kept by the Sender.
 ਚੋਟਲ ਆਈ
 ₹ 10
 POSTAL ORDER

ਨਿਯਮ-3 (1)
 ਟਿੱਪਣੀ 6 (1) ਅਧੀਨ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਲਈ ਬਿਨੈ ਪੱਤਰ
 ਦਾ ਵਿਖੇ,

ਬਲਾਕ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਅਤੇ ਪੱਚਾਇਤ ਅਫਸਰ,
ਬਲਾਕ ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ।

1. ਬਿਨੈਕਾਰ ਦਾ ਪੂਰਾ ਨਾਮ: ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਗੁਰਦਿਆਲ ਸਿੰਘ
 2. ਸਥਾਈ ਪਤਾ:- ਪਿੰਡ ਜੱਲੋ ਕੇ (ਗੱਟੀ ਰਹੀਮੇ ਕੇ) ਡਾਕਖਾਨਾ
 3. ਪੱਤਰ ਵਿਹਾਰ ਦਾ ਪਤਾ: ਬਾਰੇ ਕੇ, ਬਲਾਕ, ਤਹਿ: ਤੇ ਜ਼ਿਲਾ ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ।
 4. ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਉਕਤ

ਸੂਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਾ: ਬਲਾਕ ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ ਦੇ ਪਿੰਡ ਗੱਟੀ ਰਹੀਮੇ ਕੇ, ਗੱਟੀ ਰਾਜੇ ਕੀ, ਨਵੀਂ ਗੱਟੀ ਰਾਜੇ ਕੀ, ਟੋਭੀ ਵਾਲਾ, ਚੂਹੜੀ ਵਾਲਾ, ਭੱਖੜਾ, ਭੁੱਗੀ ਹਜ਼ਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਲਾ, ਚਾਂਦੀ ਵਾਲਾ, ਪੁੱਦਰ ਗੱਟੀ, ਕਮਾਲੇ ਵਾਲਾ, ਭੁੱਗੀ ਛਹਿਣੀ ਵਾਲਾ ਗ੍ਰਾਮ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਕਰਵਾਏ ਗਏ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਦਾ ਵੇਰਵਾ ਦੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲੈਣ ਸਬੰਧੀ।

ਅ) ਸਮਾਂ ਜਿਸ ਨਾਲ ਇਹ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਸਬੰਧ ਰੱਖਦੀ ਹੈ: 18-01-2013 ਤੋਂ 30-12-2021 ਤੱਕ
 ਈ) ਲੋੜੀਂਦੀ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਵੇਰਵਾ:

- ਜੋ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਨੂੰ R.D.F ਤਹਿਤ ਅਤੇ ਸਾਰੀਆਂ ਜੋ ਵਿੱਤ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਦੀਆਂ ਗਰਾਂਟਾਂ ਦੀ ਆਈ ਰਕਮ ਅਤੇ ਖਰਚ ਦੀਆਂ ਫੋਟੋ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ।
- ਗ੍ਰਾਮ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਦੇ ਮਤੇ ਦੀਆਂ ਫੋਟੋ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ।
- ਗ੍ਰਾਮ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਦੇ 30/5/2022 ਦੇ ਕੈਸ਼ ਬੁੱਕ ਦੇ ਹਰ ਮਹੀਨੇ ਦੀ ਆਮਦਨ ਅਤੇ ਖਰਚ ਦੀਆਂ ਫੋਟੋ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਹਰ ਮਹੀਨੇ ਦੇ ਗੈਰਵਾਰੇ ਦੀਆਂ ਫੋਟੋ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ।
- 30/5/2022 ਤੱਕ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਦੀਆਂ ਫੋਟੋ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ।
- ਹੁਣ ਤੱਕ ਹਾਜ਼ੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਾਹਿਤੀ ਦੇ 1/6/2022 ਤੱਕ ਦੇ ਆਮ ਅਜਲਾਸ ਦੀਆਂ ਫੋਟੋ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ।
- ਜੋ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਦੇ ਗ੍ਰਾਂਟ ਦੇ ਖਾਤੇ ਹਨ ਉਸ ਦੇ ਅਕਾਊਂਟ ਨੰਬਰ ਅਤੇ ਫੋਟੋ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ।
- ਮਨਰੋਗਾ ਸਕੀਮ ਤਹਿਤ 1-6-2022 ਤੱਕ ਜੋ ਵੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਵਿਚ ਕੰਮ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ, ਉਸ ਕੰਮ ਦੇ ਵੇਰਵੇ ਤਹਿਤ ਫੋਟੋ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ ਦਿੱਤੀਆਂ ਜਾਣ।
- ਜੇਕਰ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਕੋਲ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਫੰਡ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਜਿਸ ਮਹੀਨੇ ਵਿਚ ਨਵੀਂ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਬਣੀ ਹੈ ਉਸ ਤੋਂ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਹੁਣ 31-5-2022 ਤੱਕ ਬੋਲੀਆਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਫੋਟੋ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ।
- 31-5-2022 ਤੱਕ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਫੰਡ ਦੇ ਖਰਚੇ ਦਾ ਵੇਰਵਾ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਵੇ।
- ਨਵੀਂ ਗ੍ਰਾਮ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਬਣਨ ਤੋਂ 31-6-2022 ਤੱਕ ਅਕਾਊਂਟ ਰਜਿਸਟਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਫੋਟੋ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਟਾਕ ਰਜਿਸਟਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਫੋਟੋ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ।
- ਦਸੰਬਰ ਜਨਵਰੀ 2019 ਪੰਚਾਇਤੀ ਚੋਣਾਂ ਵੇਲੇ ਚੁੱਲਾ ਟੈਕਸ ਕੱਟਿਆ ਹੈ, ਉਸ ਦੀ ਚੁੱਲੇ ਟੈਕਸ ਦੀਆਂ ਫਾਰਮ ਨੰਬਰ 4 ਦੀਆਂ ਫੋਟੋ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਚੁੱਲਾ ਟੈਕਸ ਜਮਾਂ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਤੇ ਬੈਂਕ ਸਟੇਟ ਮੈਂਟ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ।

Su. Pub

12. ਨਵੀਂ ਗ੍ਰਾਮ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਬਣਨ ਤੋਂ ਲੈ ਕੇ 31-5-2022 ਤੱਕ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਦੇ ਹਰੇਕ ਖਾਤੇ ਦੀ ਜਿਵੇਂ ਕਿ ਗ੍ਰਾਂਟ, ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਫੰਡ, ਵਿੱਤ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਆਦਿ ਦੀਆਂ ਬੈਂਕ ਸਟੇਟ ਮੈਂਟ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ।

ਜ) ਕੀ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਡਾਕ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਲੋੜੀਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਜਾਂ ਵਿਅਕਤੀਗਤ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ:- ਹੱਥ ਦਸਤੀ
 (ਸੂਚਨਾ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਨ ਵਿਚ ਬਾਮਲ ਅਸਲ ਪੋਸਟਲ ਚਾਰਜਜ਼ ਬਾਮਲ ਹੋਣਗੇ)

ਹ) ਡਾਕ ਦੇ ਕੌਮ ਵਿਚ ਇਹ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਜਾਵੇ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਸਪਾਚਲ, ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਜਾਂ ਸਪੀਡ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ

4. ਕੀ ਇਹ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਸਬੰਧ ਵਿੱਤਿਕ ਪੁਲਾਸੇ ਅਧੀਨ ਪਬਲਿਕ ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਉਪਲੱਬਧ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰਵਾਈ ਗਈ। ਨਹੀਂ

5. ਕੀ ਤਸੀ ਲੋੜੀਂਦੀ ਫੀਸ ਦੀ ਅਦਾਇਗੀ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਤਿਆਰ ਹੈ। :- ਹਾਂ

6. ਕੀ ਤਸੀ ਬਿਨੈ ਪੱਤਰ ਦੀ ਫੀਸ ਜਮਾਂ ਕਰ ਚਿੱਠੀ ਹੈ। :- ਹਾਂ, ਪੋਸਟਲ ਆਰਡਰ ਨੰਬਰ

ਜੋ ਹਾਂ ਤਾਂ ਅਜਿਹੀ ਜਮਾਂ ਕਰਵਾਈ ਫੀਸ ਦਾ ਵੇਰਵਾ।

ਸਥਾਨ: ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ
 ਮਿਤੀ: 17/6/22

Su. Pub sh

ਬਿਨੈਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਪੂਰੇ ਹਸਤਾਖਰ ਅਤੇ ਪਤਾ।
 ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਗੁਰਦਿਆਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਪਿੰਡ ਜੱਲੋ ਕੇ (ਗੱਟੀ ਰਹੀਮੇ ਕੇ) ਡਾਕਖਾਨਾ
 ਬਾਰੇ ਕੇ, ਬਲਾਕ, ਤਹਿ: ਤੇ ਜ਼ਿਲਾ ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ। 9878592143

India Post



APPEAL CASE NO. 5600 OF 2022

Aggrieved, the information seeker filed an appeal before the departmental authority. However, still aggrieved, he approached the State Information Commission Punjab. Sh.Partap Singh BDPO –cum-PIO had appeared on 02.04.2026 and stated that the information was sent to the appellant. But the appellant Sh.Sahib Singh states that the information provided to him is not complete and he is not satisfied with it.

2. After going through this case very minutely, it is observed that the orders passed by PSIC in this case on 05.06.2023 show that **Sh.Balwinder Singh Panchayat Secretary** who appeared in the PSIC assured the Commission that he will furnish a reply /information within 10 days. On the next date of hearing i.e 04.07.2023, he again sought some more time to provide information to the appellant and it was noted that the PIO i.e BDPO Ferozepur is again absent. Therefore a Show-cause notice U/S 20 was issued to him and the case was adjourned to 25.07.2023. On this date of hearing, Sh.Balwinder Singh Panchayat Secretary again sought more time to provide information whereas the PIO i.e. BDPO, Ferozepur neither appeared nor submitted any reply in respect of the show cause notice. Hence, the next date of hearing was fixed for 29.08.2023. On this date of hearing, **Sh Kulwant Singh Panchayat Secretary** again assured to provide the requisite reply before the next date of hearing.

5. During the next hearing on 04.03.2025, the appellant stated that no response has been received from the respondents till date and no one appeared on behalf of the respondents. Respondent , o/o BDPO, Ferozepur was afforded last opportunity to provide point wise information to the appellant and to file reply of the **Show-cause notice already issued to him**. Hence, the case was adjourned to be heard on 06.05.2025. Again none appeared on behalf of the respondent so Bailable warrants of the PIO –cum- BDPO Ferozepur were issued on 06.05.2025 to ensure his presence and a compensation of Rs.5000/- was awarded in favour of the appellant for detriment suffered and the case was adjourned on 29.07.2025 as the public authority is not turned up to perform its duties enshrined under the RTI Act 2005.



APPEAL CASE NO. 5600 OF 2022

6. On 29.07.2025, **Smt. Sukhwinder, BDPO** appeared and stated that the appellant may inspect the record in their office. Hence, the inspection rights were fixed for 04.08.2025 at 11:00AM and the matter was adjourned to be heard on 02.12.2025. On 02.12.2025 the appellant intimated that as directed, he was not facilitated for the inspection of the record. None appeared on behalf of the respondent hence, bailable warrants were again issued against the Respondent-PIO and the case was further fixed for hearing on 29.01.2026. As per orders dated 29.01.2026 the present incumbent of the post of BDPO Ferozepur, Sh.Pankaj Singh was contacted on phone by the staff of the Bench but he instead of giving a positive response misbehaved with the official of PSIC. Accordingly vide order dated 29.01.2026, Financial Commissioner Rural Development & Panchayat has been directed to take action against this officer and to ensure compliance of the pending directions of PSIC. As per record available on case file, no update has been received in respect of these directions.

7. The perusal of RTI application dated 17.06.2022 shows that the Sahib Singh appellant sought information in respect of 10 villages falling in the jurisdiction of BDPO Ferozepur who further directed the concerned Panchayat Secretary to provide information and to attend the hearing in PSIC. Further letter dated 08.06.2023, received from BDPO Ferozepur shows that Sarpanch's of the 9 Villages out of the 10 villages whose information has been sought by the appellant did not handover the Panchayat record to the concerned authority and the matter was taken up by SDM Ferozepur with the Police Department to take further action under **Punjab Panchayat Act 1994**. No update in respect of this action is available in the case file of PSIC. Affidavit dated 29.08.2023 filed by Sh.Balwinder Singh Panchayat Secretary shows that record relating to 6 Panchayats has been destroyed in the floods and nobody can be held responsible for this incidence.



APPEAL CASE NO. 5600 OF 2022

8. Also, Sh.Balwinder Singh through his email dated 01.04.2026, has intimated that requisite information stands provided to the appellant and the appellant has expressed his satisfaction regarding the receipt of information. However, no intimation in this regard has been received from the appellant. Hence it is hard to accept that requisite information has been provided to the appellant. Letter dated 12.03.2026, written by BDPO Ferozepur to Director Rural Development & Panchayat shows that Sh. Balwinder Singh Panchayat Secretary has not submitted the record of Gram Panchayats Navi Gatti, Rajoke, Bhakhar, Chuhriwala, Habibke and Chugge Kesar Singh for audit purpose and has also not handed over the record to the present Panchayat Secretary. It has been recommended by the BDPO Ferozepur that strict disciplinary action be taken against Sh.Balwinder Singh Panchayat Secretary.

9. From the above mentioned position, it can be gathered that the office of BDPO Ferozepur including Panchayat Secretary Ferozepur are hand in glove with each other and are misleading the PSIC, Department of Rural Development & Panchayat and the appellant Sh.Sahib Singh. Misuse of Govt funds cannot be ruled out in this case because the Panchayat Secretary is evading the audit of the Panchayat record and has also delayed the information to the appellant. It is also brought on record that the PIO O/o BDPO Ferozepur did not bother to appear in PSIC despite the issue/service of Bailable Warrants and also did not give positive reply when contacted on phone by the official of PSIC.

10. The Commission has carefully examined the record and considered the submissions made during the hearing. It is observed that, under the relevant rules, the BDPO is responsible for overseeing the Panchayat records, the Panchayat Secretary is responsible for maintaining all office registers, documents and records, and the custody of such records vests with the Sarpanch. In view of these responsibilities, the Commission is of the prima facie opinion that the BDPO, Panchayat Secretary and Sarpanch were collectively responsible for ensuring the proper maintenance, preservation and availability of the records sought by the appellant.

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



11. The respondent has submitted that the record was destroyed/damaged and that the records pertaining to all villages were affected simultaneously. The Commission, however, finds the explanation unsatisfactory. The Commission further notes that the RTI application was filed on 17.06.2022; whereas the DDR regarding the alleged missing/damaged record was lodged only on 30.11.2023 (which is as under) i.e. more than one year after the filing of the RTI application. This fact raises serious doubts regarding the manner in which the records were maintained and preserved by the concerned authorities.

[illegible]



APPEAL CASE NO. 5600 OF 2022

12. It is further observed that while the respondent has produced above-said DDR pertaining to six villages, the information sought by the appellant relates to ten villages. No satisfactory explanation has been furnished regarding the remaining villages. The Commission also notes that no audit or verification of the missing records appears to have been conducted by the concerned authorities, thereby raising serious concerns regarding the maintenance and preservation of public records.

13. The Commission is also of the considered view that there has been a failure to comply with the mandate of Section 4(1)(a) of the RTI Act 2005, which casts an obligation upon every public authority to maintain its records duly catalogued and indexed in a manner that facilitates the right to information.

14. Upon a careful consideration of the facts and circumstances of the present case, the Commission is of the considered view that the matter may require examination from a vigilance perspective. Accordingly, in exercise of the recommendatory powers conferred under Section 25(5) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, the Commission deems it appropriate to forward a copy of this order to the Vigilance Department for its independent consideration. The Vigilance Department may examine the matter and, if it is of the opinion that a vigilance inquiry is warranted on the basis of the material available, it may initiate appropriate proceedings in accordance with the applicable law and rules. It is clarified that the Commission has not expressed any opinion on the merits of the allegations, and the Vigilance Department shall take such action as it may deem fit in accordance with law.

15. Further, the facts of the case disclose prima facie negligence and dereliction of duty on the part of the concerned officials. Therefore, the Commission recommends initiation of appropriate disciplinary proceedings under Section 20(2) of the RTI Act, 2005, against the concerned officials i.e. BDPO, Panchayat Secretary and Sarpanches of the villages concerned, whosoever posted from

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



APPEAL CASE NO. 5600 OF 2022

the date of RTI application till the case was reserved. Copies of relevant documents as discussed in this order are enclosed.

16. In view of the above , 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.

Date : 10.07.2026

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

CC: 1. Secretary, Govt of Punjab, Vigilance department, Sectt. -2, Sector 9, Chandigarh
2. Director Rural Development and Panchayat, Vikas Bhawan, Sector 62 , SAS Nagar

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

