

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.
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ShMohinder Pal, Ex Asstt Commandant BSI,
H. No 36/2, Model Town,
Dinanagar, Distt Gurdaspur-143531
(M-9877103550)

..... Appellant

Public Information Officer,
O/o DC, Gurdaspur

.Vs

First Appellate Authority
O/o DC, Gurdaspur

.....Respondent

AC No.3358of 2024

Present :- (i) Sh.Mohinder Pal the appellant
(ii) For the respondent :None for the respondent

ORDER

The RTI application is dated 01.12.2023 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 09.05.2024 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 20.08.2026 in the Commission.

2. The appellant states that he received the information yesterday itself i.e. 19.08.2026. He further states that the information provided to him is wrong. This is the first hearing and no one has put in appearance on behalf of the respondents nor has any communication been received from them. In the interest of justice, Respondent PIO is afforded one more opportunity to provide the appellant point-wise complete specific information, duly attested, free of cost, by registered post, in accordance with his RTI application dated 01.12.2023 and present a photocopy of the relevant postal receipt along with a copy of the information provided, before the Commission on the next date fixed, for its perusal and records. Respondents to note that in case no one comes present on their behalf on the next date fixed, punitive provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 may be invoked against the erring officer(s).

3. To come up on 23.09.2026 at 11.30 AM for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Date :20.08.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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ShVinod Kumar, (M-99149-32811)
S/o ShRanjitkumar, ChakRadheWala,
Village ModiKhera, Tehsil Abohar,
Distt Fazilka-152116
(RTI application no. 173303)

..... Appellant

Public Information Officer,
O/o ADC (D) Fazilka

.Vs

First Appellate Authority
O/o ADC (D) Fazilka

.....Respondent

AC No.3285of 2025

Present :- None for the parties.

ORDER

The RTI application is dated 12.03.2025 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 03.06.2025 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 20.08.2026 in the Commission.

2. Today neither the appellant nor the respondent is present. They have even not informed the Commission about their absence for today's hearing. This is the first date of hearing hence taking a lenient view **one last and final opportunity** is given to both the parties to appear before the Commission and state their case. Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte. To come up on **29.09.2026 at 11.30 AM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Date :20.08.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Ms VandanaPathania, (m-8728900729)
D/o ShPrem Singh Pathania,
R/o H.No 2409/145, Ward No.2,
Tickrian Street, Kartarpur, Distt Jalandhar-144801
(RTI application no. 223153)

..... Appellant1

Public Information Officer,
O/o District Saving officer, Jalandhar

.Vs

First Appellate Authority
O/o Director, Small Savings & lotteries,
Department of Finance, Punjab CiviSectt, Chandigarh

.....Respondent

AC No.2848of 2026
(heard through CISCO-Webex)

Present :- (i) ShVishvajitPathania, on behalf of the appellant
(ii) For the respondent :ShRitish Gupta, SO (70097-29004) Ms RamjotKaur,
Supdt. (9779708406) , Sh.Rupinder Singh

ORDER

The RTI application is dated 28.10.2025 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 06.04.2026 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 20.08.2026 in the Commission.

2. The respondent submits that the information has already been provided to the appellant. The respondent has also filed his reply.

3. Sh Vishavjit Singh Pathania, is appearing on behalf of the appellant today. However, he has not filed any authority letter. He states that the information provided is not complete.

4. In view of the above, the appellant is given an opportunity to point out deficiencies ,in the information provided, to the respondent before the next date of hearing with a copy to the Commission. On receipt of the deficiencies, the respondents are directed to remove the same before the next date of hearing. Further, **Sh Vishavjit Singh Pathania, representative for the appellant is directed to file his authority letter before the next date of hearing.** Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte. To come up on **23.09.2026 at 11:30AM through CISCO-WEBEX (online video conferencing).** The meeting number of the this bench is **25154060883** and password is **12345**. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Date :20.08.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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ShSuratChander, (M-7009236606)
144, housing Board Colony,
Urban Estate-1, Jalandhar-144005

..... Appellant1

Public Information Officer,
O/o MC, Jalandhar

.Vs

First Appellate Authority
O/o Commissioner, MC, Jalandhar

.....Respondent

AC No.3584of 2026

Present :- (i) None for the appellant
(ii) For the respondent :ShBalwinder Singh, Patwari (9877155939)

ORDER

The RTI application is dated 07.10.2023 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 02.05.2024 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 20.08.2026 in the Commission.

2. The appellant is not present today. He has informed telephonically that he shall not be able to attend the hearing today as he is out of station.

3. The respondent has sought time today.

4. Hence, considering the request of the respondent, an opportunity is given to the respondent to appear before the Commission alongwith complete information. Further, it is observed that the respondents are being represented by the officials who are not in a position to satisfy the Commission and the appellant. This clearly shows that the Respondent has no regard for the orders issued by the Commission. Hence, it is directed that, from the next date of hearing, no person below the PIO or APIO will be allowed to appear. Respondents to note that in case no one comes present on their behalf on the next date fixed, punitive provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 may be invoked against the erring officer(s). Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing this, the Commission shall proceed to decide the matter on the basis of the material available on record and may issue appropriate directions in accordance with law. To come up on **29.09.2026 at 11:30AM through Video-conferencing facility in the O/o DC, Jalandhar.** Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Date :20.08.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Ms Neelam Sharma (Dr.), (M-9878205000)
Astt Professor (education)
Mehsmapur Road, VPO RurkaKalan,
Tehsil Phillaur, Distt Jalandhar-144030

..... Appellant

Public Information Officer,
O/o SSP, Kapurthala

.Vs

First Appellate Authority
O/o SSP, Kapurthala

.....Respondent

AC No.3472 of 2026

Present :- (i) Ms.Neelam Sharma the appellant
(ii) For the respondent : None for the respondent

ORDER

The RTI application is dated 29.12.2025 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 29.04.2026 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 20.08.2026 in the Commission.

2. Today the appellant Ms.Neelam Sharma submits that the information sought by her has been denied by the respondent under Section 8(1)(h) of the RTI Act on 23.03.2026. She further submits her two cases were listed for hearing today and that 806 pages of information pertaining to both cases have been supplied to her collectively. However, the CDR of Mr.Surinder Sharma, Suptd. of Ramgarhia College of Education, Satnampura Phagwara has not been supplied in the present case.

3. The respondent is absent today. In view of the submissions made by the appellant and the absence of the respondent, the respondent is directed to provide/file the information and reply separately in respect of both RTI applications/cases. The information pertaining to one case shall not be clubbed with or supplied alongwith the information pertaining to the other case. The respondent shall remain present on the next date of hearing along with the complete relevant record. To come up on **11.11.2026 at 11.30 AM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Date :20.08.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Sh Vishvajit Singh, (M-8728900729)
S/o Sh Prem Singh,
H.No 2409-145, Ward No.2-Kartarpur,
Tehsi&Distt Jalandhar-144801
(RTI Application no. 223145)

..... Appellant

Public Information Officer,
O/o Sr. District saving Officer, Jalandhar

.Vs

First Appellate Authority
O/o Director, Small Savings, Pb
Civil Secretariate, Chandigarh

.....Respondent

AC No.1311 of 2026

Present :- (i) Sh Vishvajit Singh, appellant through CISCO webex
(ii) For the respondent : Sh Ritish Gupta, SO (70097-29004) Ms Ramjot Kaur,
Supdt. (9779708406), Sh. Vikas Rana, Sh. Kishor Kumar, (9816143261) and Sh.
Rupinder Singh, Sr. Assitant (8872959604)

ORDER

The RTI application is dated 28.10.2025 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 02.02.2026 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 20.08.2026 in the Commission.

2. The respondent submits that the information has already been provided to the appellant. The respondent has also filed his reply.

3. The appellant states that the information provided is not complete and he is not satisfied with it.

4. In view of the above, the appellant is given an opportunity to point out deficiencies, in the information provided, to the respondent before the next date of hearing with a copy to the Commission. On receipt of the deficiencies, the respondents are directed to remove the same before the next date of hearing. Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte. To come up on 23.09.2026 at 11:30AM through **CISCO-WEBEX (online video conferencing)**. **The meeting number of the this bench is 25154060883 and password is 12345.** Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Date : 20.08.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Sh. Kulbir Pal, S/o Sh. Assa Ram,
R/o Village Kalyanpur,
Jalandhar.M : 9872089251

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Director,
Department of Rural Development and Panchayat ,Punjab,
VikasBhawan, Sector 62, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali).

Public Information Officer,
O/o Block Development and Panchayat Officer
Block Jalandhar West, District Jalandhar.

Public Information Officer,
O/o District Development and Panchayat Officer
Jalandhar.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Director,
Department of Rural Development and Panchayat, Punjab,
VikasBhawan, Sector 62, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali).

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 5608 OF 2023
(heard through CISCO-Webex)

Present :- (i) ShKulbir Pal, appellant
(ii) For the respondent :ShSewaSingh,BDPO (98552-60464) and
Ms SurinderKaur, Supdt (7626915257)

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 14.05.2026 vide which the respondent was directed to provide information pertaining to point no. 5 to the appellant before the next date of hearing.

2. The appellant states that he has not received the information pertaining to point no. 5.
3. The respondent has again sought time today.
4. In view of the above, **one final and last opportunity** is granted to the respondent to furnish the information pertaining to point no.5 to the appellant, and place proof of such service on record before the next date of hearing. The respondent is, hereby, put on clear notice that any further failure to comply with the directions of the Commission, or failure to appear on the next date of hearing without sufficient cause, shall be viewed seriously and may invite appropriate

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APPEAL CASE NO. 5608 OF 2023

action as permissible under the provisions of the RTI Act. No further indulgence shall be shown in the matter.

5. Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing this, the Commission shall proceed to decide the matter on the basis of the material available on record and may issue appropriate directions in accordance with law. To come up on **29.09.2026 at 11:30AM** through Video-Conferencing Facility in the O/o DC, Jalandhar. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date :20.08.2026

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Ms Neelam Sharma (Dr.), (M-9878205000)
Astt Professor (education)
Mehsmapur Road, VPO RurkaKalan,
Tehsil Phillaur, Distt Jalandhar-144030

..... Appellant

Public Information Officer,
O/o SHO, Satnampura, Phagwara,
DisttKapurthala

.Vs

First Appellate Authority
O/o SSP, Kapurthala

.....Respondent

AC No.466of 2026

Present :- (i) Ms. Neelam Sharma the appellant
(ii) For the respondent : None for the parties

ORDER

The RTI application is dated 30.09.2025 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 31.12.2025 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 20.08.2026 in the Commission.

2. The appellant Ms. Neelam Sharma states that she demanded following information from the respondent

By Hand

To,
The Public Information Officer,
Office of SHO Satnampura
Phagwara

Subject: Request for information under RTI Act, 2005

Respected Sir/Madam,

I, Dr Neelam Sharma, resident of Meh Sampur Road, VPO Rurka Kalan, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt Jalandhar (144031), wish to seek the following information under the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005:

Information Requested :

Kindly provide certified copies of all the documents from serial 01 to 22 mentioned in the letter vide no. Doc/33/2024/FSL/Pb/dated 17/05/2024 with respect to Complaint No. 179-HRC dated 19/9/2023, Complaint No. 904-PC dated 13/09/2023 with Reference no. Memo No. 95-CH dated 02/02/2024 sent from Senior Supdt of Police, Kapurthala to Director, Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Punjab, Phase-4. SAS Nagar, Mohali (copy enclosed for ready reference please).

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AC No.466of 2026

3. She further states that she has received the report, however the enclosures accompanying the said report have not been supplied to her. She adds that her two cases were listed for hearing today and that 806 pages of information pertaining to both cases have been supplied to her collectively.

4. The respondent is absent today. In view of the submissions made by the appellant and the absence of the respondent, the respondent is directed to provide/file the information and reply separately in respect of both RTI applications/cases. The information pertaining to one case shall not be clubbed with or supplied alongwith the information pertaining to the other case. The respondent shall remain present on the next date of hearing along with the complete relevant record. To come up on **11.11.2026 at 11.30 AM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Date :20.08.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Sh. Kulbir Pal, S/o Sh. Assa Ram,
R/o Village Kalyanpur,
Jalandhar.M : 9872089251

appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Director,
Department of Rural Development and Panchayat ,Punjab,
VikasBhawan, Sector 62, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali).

Public Information Officer,
O/o Block Development and Panchayat Officer
Block Jalandhar West, District Jalandhar.

Public Information Officer,
O/o District Development and Panchayat Officer
Jalandhar.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Director,
Department of Rural Development and Panchayat, Punjab,
VikasBhawan, Sector 62, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali).

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 5609 OF 2023
(heard through CISCO-Webex)

Present :- (i) ShKulbir Pal, appellant
(ii) For the respondent :ShSewaSingh,BDPO (98552-60464) and
Ms SurinderKaur, Supdt (7626915257)

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 14.05.2026 vide which the respondent was directed to provide information pertaining to point no. 4 to the appellant before the next date of hearing.

2. The appellant states that he has not received the information pertaining to point no. 4.

3. The respondent has again sought time today.

3. In view of the above, **one final and last opportunity** is granted to the respondent furnish the information pertaining to point no.4 to the appellant, and place proof of such service on record before the next date of hearing. The respondent is hereby put on clear notice that any further failure to comply with the directions of the Commission, or failure to appear on the next date of hearing

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APPEAL CASE NO. 5609 OF 2023

without sufficient cause, shall be viewed seriously and may invite appropriate action as permissible under the provisions of the RTI Act. No further indulgence shall be shown in the matter.

4. Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing this, the Commission shall proceed to decide the matter on the basis of the material available on record and may issue appropriate directions in accordance with law. To come up on **29.09.2026 at 11:30AM** through Video-Conferencing Facility in the O/o DC, Jalandhar. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Date :20.08.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Sh Wakil Ram, (M-98557-91997)
S/o ShAmrika Ram,
Village Phus Mandi, Tehsil Sardulgarh,
Distt Mansa-151507
(RTI application no. 136930)

..... Appellant

Public Information Officer,
O/o Chairman, SSS Board, Punjab
Forest Building, Sector 68- SAS Nagar, Mohali

.Vs

First Appellate Authority
O/o Chairman, SSS Board, Punjab
Forest Building, Sector 68- SAS Nagar, Mohali

.....Respondent

AC No.164 of 2025

Present :- None for the parties.

ORDER

The RTI application is dated 07.08.2024 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 01.01.2025 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 20.08.2026 in the Commission.

2. Today neither the appellant nor the respondent is present. They have even not informed the Commission about their absence for today's hearing. This is the first date of hearing hence taking a lenient view one last and final opportunity is given to both the parties to appear before the Commission and state their case. Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte. To come up on **29.09.2026 at 11.30 AM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Date :20.08.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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ShRajinder Pal Sharma, (M-98153-23266)
S/o ShShukar Chand,
St No. 4, T-Point, Farid Nagar,
RampuraPhul, Distt Bathinda-151103

..... Appellant1

Public Information Officer,
O/o XEN, PWD B&R, Bathinda-151001

.Vs

First Appellate Authority
O/o SE, PWD B&R, Bathinda-151001

.....Respondent

AC No.776 of 2025

Present :- (i) Sh.Rajinder Pal Sharma the appellant
(ii) For the respondent : None for the respondent

ORDER

The RTI application is dated 22.11.2023 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 23.01.2025 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for 20.08.2026 in the Commission.

2. Sh. Rajinder Pal Sharma stated that no response whatsoever has been received from the respondents till date. No one has put in appearance on behalf of the respondents nor has any communication been received from them. In the interest of justice, Respondent PIO is afforded one more opportunity to provide the appellant point-wise complete specific information, duly attested, free of cost, by registered post, in accordance with his RTI application dated 22.11.2023 and present a photocopy of the relevant postal receipt along with a copy of the information provided, before the Commission on the next date fixed, for its perusal and records. Respondents to note that in case no one comes present on their behalf on the next date fixed, punitive provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 may be invoked against the erring officer(s).

3. To come up on **22.10.2026 at 11.30 AM** for further proceedings in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Bathinda. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Date :20.08.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
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Sh.Rohit Bhardwar, # 34/1,
Harnam Dass Pura, OPP Vasal Hospital
Jalandhar - 144001

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Improvement Trust, Jalandhar

First Appellate Authority
O/o ADC(Urban Development)
Jalandhar

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO.853 of 2024
Through CISCO webex

Present :- (i) Sh.Rohit Bhardwar the appellant
(ii) For the respondent :Sh.Vinod Kumar, Head Draftsman (8968977277)

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 09.06.2026 passed by the Commission.

2. Today the appellant, Sh. Rohit Bhardwar, appeared through CISCO Webex. On behalf of the respondent, Sh. Vinod Kumar Head Draftsman, appeared before the Commission.

3. The appellant submitted that the RTI application in the present matter was filed in the year 2020 and that, vide order dated 09.06.2026, the contention of the respondent regarding Point No. 1 of the RTI application was upheld on the ground that the information sought constituted third-party information.

4. The appellant strongly contested the aforesaid finding and submitted that the stand taken by the respondent that the information sought under Point No. 1 is third-party information is factually incorrect. He submitted that the respondent has raised such an objection only in the year 2026, whereas his RTI application dates back to the year 2020. He further submitted that the said objection was not raised at the relevant stage and that the letter/communication by which the department allegedly treated the information as third-party information has also not been supplied to him.

5. The appellant further submitted that during the previous hearing, the CISCO Webex facility was not functioning properly and, due to technical/connectivity issues, he could not properly put forth his submissions before the Commission. He therefore requested that his present written submissions be taken on record and considered while deciding the matter.



APPEAL CASE NO.853 of 2024

6. The appellant submitted that the information sought by him relates to Khasra Nos. 6708-6709-6712 and that the persons to whom the respondent has sought to attribute the third-party status have themselves furnished affidavits/no-objection regarding disclosure of the information sought by him.

7. In support of his submissions, the appellant has placed on record his detailed written submissions along with photocopies of the affidavits furnished by Sh. Surjit Singh Hothi and Sh. Gian Singh Hothi, wherein their stand regarding disclosure of the information has been stated. The appellant has also annexed photocopies of the relevant Power of Attorney documents, registered deeds and other supporting documents with his submissions. The aforesaid written submissions and documents are taken on record.

8. The appellant submitted that the aforesaid persons have no objection to the supply of the information pertaining to their portion/share of the land and, therefore, the plea of the respondent that the information sought under Point No. 1 constitutes third-party information requires reconsideration in view of the documents now placed on record.

9. The appellant further submitted that the respondent has not followed the procedure contemplated under Section 11 of the Right to Information Act, 2005, before treating the information as third-party information. He submitted that, if the respondent intended to invoke Section 11, the prescribed procedure ought to have been followed and the concerned third party ought to have been given the opportunity contemplated under the Act.

10. The Commission has perused the written submissions filed by the appellant along with the photocopies of the affidavits, Power of Attorney documents, registered deeds and other documents annexed thereto. Since these documents have been placed on record and the appellant has specifically disputed the factual basis of the earlier finding regarding Point No. 1, the same shall be considered along with the complete record of the respondent before the issue is finally determined.

11. The appellant further submitted that he has not been supplied the letter/communication by which the department allegedly treated the information sought under Point No. 1 as third-party information. Accordingly, the respondent shall produce on the next date the said letter/communication, if any, along with the complete correspondence relating to the said objection.

12. The appellant also submitted that the respondent has not complied with the directions contained in Point No. 2 of the order dated 09.06.2026. On the other hand, the respondent stated that 35 pages of information had been sent to the appellant.

13. The appellant categorically denied having received the said 35 pages. In view of the specific denial by the appellant, the respondent shall produce on the next date complete documentary proof of dispatch as well as delivery/service of the alleged 35 pages, including the date and mode of dispatch, postal/dispatch receipt, tracking report and proof of delivery/receipt, as applicable.



APPEAL CASE NO.853 of 2024

14. Mere assertion by the respondent that the information was dispatched shall not, by itself, be treated as proof of receipt by the appellant. The respondent shall therefore place on record all material available with regard to dispatch and delivery of the said information.

15. Today, Sh. Vinod Kumar, Head Draftsman, appeared on behalf of the respondent. However, it was submitted that he did not possess the requisite authority to finally represent the concerned PIO in the matter. The appellant strongly objected to the same and submitted that the concerned PIO/EO should personally appear before the Commission.

16. The appellant repeatedly pressed for initiation of proceedings under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 against the concerned PIO. He specifically submitted that, for the alleged delay/non-supply of information and non-compliance with the directions of the Commission, penalty at the rate of Rs. 250/- per day should be imposed upon the concerned PIO, in accordance with the provisions of Section 20(1) of the RTI Act.

17. The appellant further submitted that despite the RTI application having been filed in the year 2020, the information has still not been furnished to him in its entirety and the respondent has now taken the plea of third-party information at a belated stage. He therefore requested that the conduct of the concerned PIO be examined under Section 20 of the RTI Act.

18. The Commission has taken note of the aforesaid request of the appellant. However, before arriving at any conclusion regarding the liability of the concerned PIO under Section 20(1), it is necessary to ascertain the complete factual position, including the alleged dispatch of 35 pages, the respondent's stand regarding third-party information, compliance with the procedure under Section 11 and the reasons for non-supply/non-compliance, if any.

19. Accordingly, the issue regarding initiation of proceedings under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, including the appellant's specific request for imposition of penalty at the rate of Rs. 250/- per day, is kept open for consideration after the concerned PIO has been afforded an opportunity to explain his position and after examination of the complete record.

20. The concerned EO/PIO shall personally appear before the Commission on the next date of hearing, duly authorised to represent the respondent, and shall bring with him the complete original RTI record/file, including:

- i. the original RTI application and all replies furnished to the appellant;
- ii. the complete record relating to Khasra Nos. 6708-6709-6712;
- iii. the letter/communication, if any, whereby the information was treated as third-party information;



APPEAL CASE NO.853 of 2024

iv. the complete record showing compliance, if any, with Section 11 of the RTI Act, 2005;

v. all notices, correspondence and representations exchanged with the concerned third parties;

vi. the complete record relating to the 35 pages allegedly supplied to the appellant, along with proof of dispatch and delivery;

vii. the record showing compliance with the directions contained in the order dated 09.06.2026; and

viii. any other record/document relevant to the information sought under the RTI application.

21. The concerned PIO shall also specifically respond to the affidavits/no-objection documents of Sh. Surjit Singh Hothi and Sh. Gian Singh Hothi, as filed by the appellant, and shall explain whether, and on what basis, the information sought under Point No. 1 is still being treated as third-party information.

22. The appellant has also sought inspection of the relevant record. The respondent/PIO shall accordingly keep the complete relevant record available for inspection by the appellant on the next date of hearing, subject to the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 and severance of any information which is otherwise exempt from disclosure under the Act.

23. The respondent shall also bring the posting/official designation record of the concerned PIO/EO, so as to establish the officer who was responsible for dealing with the RTI application and for complying with the directions issued by the Commission. The respondent shall also clarify the period during which the concerned officer held the charge of PIO.

24. The Commission makes it clear that the personal appearance of the concerned EO/PIO on the next date is mandatory, so that the factual and legal position regarding the third-party objection, compliance with Section 11, alleged supply of 35 pages and the delay/non-supply of information can be properly examined.

25. The appellant's request for proceedings under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, including penalty at the rate of Rs. 250/- per day, is taken on record. The same shall be considered in accordance with law after hearing the concerned PIO and examining the explanation and material placed on record.

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26. The concerned EO/PIO is directed to appear personally on the next date without fail and to come fully prepared with the complete original record and all documents directed to be produced hereinabove. Any failure to comply with the directions of the Commission shall be viewed seriously and shall be dealt with in.

27. To come up on **17.09.2026 at 11.30 AM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Date :20.08.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Sh. Harinder Singh Sidhu,
S/o Late Sh. Jagdev Singh
R/o 236, Sector 21A, Chandigarh

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Punjab
Chandigarh

First Appellate Authority
O/o Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Punjab
Chandigarh

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 3720 OF 2020

Present : (i) None for the appellant
(ii) For the respondent : Sh. Arminster Singh, Sr. Assistant (8837773401), Sh. Gurinder Singh, (9814933256) and Sh. Satnam Singh, Clerk (9814808322)

ORDER

This order may be read in continuity of previous dated 21.09.2021 passed by the Bench of SIC Sh. Maninder Singh Patti.

2. Through above order, a penalty of Rs.25000/- was imposed upon the PIO office of Registrar Coop Societies Pb Chandigarh. Sh. Amarjit Additional Registrar (G) who was the PIO in this case challenged the said order dated 21.09.2021 through CWP No. 13580 of 2022 (O&M). The Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court set aside the penalty of Rs.25,000/- imposed upon the petitioner through the impugned order. The operative part of order dated 11.09.2025 passed by Hon'ble High Court is reproduced as under:-

8. *"With regard issue no. (i), there is no dispute between the contesting litigants that the information sought by the respondent No.2 is amenable to disclosure under the RTI Act. As regards issues Nos.(ii) and(iii), this Court is of the view that, after giving an assurance before the Commission, the petitioner made efforts to procure and supply the requisite information to the respondent No.2. However, he was unable to do so, as the Superintendent concerned, who was the custodian of the apposite record, denied the existence of such information. The petitioner promptly apprised the Commission of this fact upon becoming aware of it. The petitioner's current stand before this Court continues to rest on the said communication from the Superintendent, stating that the desired information is not available in the record. The petitioner cannot be expected to create information that is non-existent and, therefore cannot be held liable for delay or*



APPEAL CASE NO. 3720 OF 2020

concealment. Accordingly this Court is of the opinion that the penalty of Rs. 25,000/- imposed upon the petitioner deserves to be set aside. The impugned order is, therefore, modified to the extent that the penalty of Rs. 25,000/- imposed upon the petitioner is hereby set aside.

9. *As to whether the apposite file noting in respect of letter dated 12.03.2020 exists or not, the respondent No.2 shall be at liberty to agitate his claim in this regard before the appropriate authority/forum.*
10. *Disposed of accordingly.*
11. *Pending application stands disposed of accordingly."*

3. In view of above direction, this case has been reallocated to the undersigned Bench and was fixed for hearing on 20.08.2026. Notice of hearing was issued to the parties on 09.07.2026. On the hearing date, the representative of the respondent office came present but the hearing notice sent to the appellant Sh.Harinder Sidhu returned back undelivered with the remarks "no such person". In the absence of the appellant it could not be ascertained whether passed by Hon'ble high Court has attained finality or any appeal against this order has been filed by Sh.Harinder Singh Sidhu. In view of above, it is considered appropriate to give one more opportunity to the appellant to appear before the Commission to state his version. Accordingly this case is adjourned to 22.10.2026 with direction that copy of this order be sent to the parties.

Date :20.08.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Sh. Karan Preet Singh, S/o Sh
Prem Kumar, House No. Es 316, Abadpura
Tehsil and Distt. Jalandhar

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o XEN, Jalandhar Drainage cum
Mining and Geology Division
Jalandhar

First Appellate Authority
O/o SE, Jalandhar Drainage cum Mining
and Geology Division, Jalandhar

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 4512 OF 2025

(heard through CISCO-Webex)

Present :- (i) Sh. Karan Preet Singh, appellant
(ii) For the respondent :None

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 21.05.2026 vide which an opportunity was given to both the parties.

2. The appellant states that the information provided to him is not complete.

3. The respondent is not present today.

4. The perusal of the case file shows that no one has appeared on behalf of the respondent today. They have not even informed the Commission about their absence. Further, the appellant has submitted that the information provided to him is not complete. Hence, the appellant is given an opportunity to point out deficiencies, in the information provided, to the respondent before the next date of hearing with a copy to the Commission. On receipt of the deficiencies, the respondents are directed to remove the same before the next date of hearing. *Further, it is also clarified that in case the respondent-PIO does not appear on the next date of hearing, action u/s 20(1) of the RTI Act shall be passed.* Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte. To come up on **29.09.2026 at 11:30AM** through Video-Conferencing Facility in the O/o DC, Jalandhar. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date :20.08.2026

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