

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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

Ph. 0172-2864101, Helpline 0172-2864100

Email: pcic20@punjabmail.gov.in Visit us: www.infocommpunjab.com



Sh. Harinderpal Singh Mahal,

S/o Sh. Harbans Singh

R/o House No. 1130,

Sector-21, Chandigarh

M: 8558880860

...Appellant

V/s

Tehsildar (by name)

-cum-Public Information Officer,

O/o Tehsildar,

Tehsil Complex, Dera Bassi

District SAS Nagar (Mohali)

Encl. RTI application

First Appellate Authority,

O/o Sub Divisional Magistrate,

Tehsil Complex, Dera Bassi,

SAS Nagar (Mohali)

....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 830 of 2026

Present: Sh. Sandeep Bhardwaj, Advocate (7009827317) and Sh. Parmod Aggarwal (9872723164) on behalf of the appellant.

None on behalf of the respondent.

ORDER

The RTI application is dated 10.09.2025 vide which the appellant has sought information as enumerated in his RTI application. First appeal was filed with the First Appellate Authority (hereinafter FAA) on 16.10.2025 and second appeal was filed in the Commission on 14.01.2026 under Section 19 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter RTI Act). Notice of hearing was issued to the parties for hearing for today i.e. 09.04.2026.

2. The appellant submits that the directions may be issued to the respondent PIO to supply the complete information. None is present on behalf of the Tehsildar. It is also a fact that a notice of hearing was sent to him through registered post but even though he is absent which appears that his absence is intentional and willful.

3. Viewing the attitude in dealing with the RTI application by the respondent casually, **Tehsildar, Derabassi-cum-Public Information Officer, is, thus, issued a show cause notice** to explain in a self-attested affidavit as to why a penalty @ Rs.250/- per day of delay subject to a maximum of Rs.25000/- till the complete information is furnished, be not imposed under Section 20(1) of RTI Act, 2005 on him for causing willful delay/denial of the information to the RTI applicant and to show cause why a compensation under section 19(8) of the RTI Act,2005, may not be paid to the appellant for causing willful delay/denial of the information for detriment suffered by him.

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In addition to the written reply, the Public Information Officer is also given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may take a note that in case he does not file his written reply and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission will proceed ex-parte.

4. It is appropriate to mention the judgment passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in W.P.No.17677 of 2010 and M.P.No.1 of 2010 and the relevant portion of the same is reproduced below:

"10.Such Officers must be taught a lesson and in my view, they are unfit to hold the post of Public Information Officer or any other post in connection with the discharge of duties under RTI Act and they should be shown the doors, so that it will be a lesson for other Officers to act in accordance with the terms of the Act, failing which they may also face the similar or more consequences."

5. Keeping in view the above, a copy of this order **is being sent** to Financial Commissioner (Revenue)/Deputy Commissioner, Mohali to ensure the presence the concerned Tehsildar, Dera Bassi, failing which, the decision will be taken as per the procedure established by Law.

6. To come up on **06.05.2026 at 11:30 A. M. at Chandigarh.**

Dated: 09.04.2026

**(Inderpal Singh)
Chief Information Commissioner,
Punjab.**

CC:

Sh. Anurag Verma, IAS
Financial Commissioner (Revenue), Punjab
Punjab Civil Secretariat-1,
Chandigarh

Ms. Komal Mittal, IAS
Deputy Commissioner,
SAS Nagar (Mohali)