

**PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**

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

Ph: 0172-2864101, Fax 0172-2864110 Helpline 0172-2864100

Email: [psic20@punjabmail.gov.in](mailto:psic20@punjabmail.gov.in) Visit us: [www.infocommpunjab.com](http://www.infocommpunjab.com)

Whatsapp No. 62848-20189



Sh. Raj Singh s/o Sh. Inder Singh,  
VPO Walle Shah Uthar (Behak),  
Tehsil & Distt. Fazilka

....Appellant

Vs

Sh. Lakhbir Singh,  
Public Information Officer-cum-  
Block Development and Panchayats Officer,  
Fazilka.

Sh. Harpreet Singh B.D.P.O.  
Public Information Officer-cum-  
Block Development and Panchayats Officer,  
Fazilka.

First Appellate Authority  
o/o Block Development and Panchayats Officer,  
Fazilka

....Respondents

Appeal Case No. 2783 of 2021  
(Video Conference Proceedings)

Present: None on behalf of the appellant.  
None on behalf of the respondents.

Order

This order may be read with the reference to the previous order dated  
16.6.2022.

2. Both the parties are absent without any intimation to the Commission. It is pertinent to mention here that both appellant and PIO were present during the last hearing dated 16.6.2022. A copy of order dated 16.6.2022 was sent to the parties including Sh. Lakhbir Singh Ex-BDPO Fazilka now posted as Education Panchayat Officer, **Rani ka Baag**, Verka Block, Amritsar through registered post intimating them the proceedings and next date of hearing. Also a copy of order dated 16.6.2022 was sent to Director, Rural Development and Panchayat department, Punjab, Mohali through registered post. As such, the officers of Directorate, Rural Development and Panchayat Department, Punjab were in knowledge of the proceedings in this case.

3. Due to defying attitude in dealing with the case a show cause notice was issued to the PIO for the imposition of penalty and a compensation amounting to Rs.3000/- was awarded in favour of the appellant dated 30.11.2021. Thereafter, the case was adjourned

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AC 2783/2021

number of times to comply with the order of the Commission and to supply the information. Due to non compliance of the order of the Commission the compensation was increased from Rs.3000/- to Rs.10,000/- and a show cause notice was issued on 27.4.2022 to Sh. Lakhbir Singh, BDPO Fazilka now posted as Education Panchayat Officer, Rani Ka Baag, Verka Block, Amritsar for imposition of penalty. It is also a fact on record that the orders dated 16.6.2022 were sent to Sh. Lakhbir Singh, Education Panchayat Officer as he was well versed with the proceedings of the case. But he is again absent today without intimation and also has not sent any reply to the show cause notice issued to him on 27.4.2022.

4. Viewing the attitude of the respondent towards the non compliance of the order of the Commission dated 16.6.2022, the **compensation amount of Rs 10000/- is enhanced to Rs 25000/-** payable to the appellant in the interest of justice. The Public Information Officer is directed to pay the compensation amount through Government exchequer before the next date of hearing and **the case file is being sent to the Financial Commissioner, Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt.,Pb. with the recommendation to take disciplinary action against Sh. Lakhbir Singh BDPO Fazilka now posted as Education Panchayat Officer at Amritsar( Mobile - 9592150133) for the non compliance of the order of the Commission.**

5. That Sh. Harpreet Singh present B.D.P.O Fazilka cum PIO was present in the last hearing dated 16.6.2022 and he is also well versed with the proceedings of the case. He has also not attended the today's hearing. Therefore, Shri Harpreet Singh , 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 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.

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

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AC 2783/2021

date, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission will proceed ex-parte, on merit.

6. A last opportunity is afforded to the appellant to establish his Public Interest involved in seeking the third party information before the next date of hearing failing which ex-parte decision will be taken, on merit.

7. To come up on 10.8.2022 at 12.30 P.M. to be heard through video conference facility available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Fazilka/ Amritsar.

sd

Dated 13.7.2022

@s

( Suresh Arora)

Chief information Commissioner, Punjab.

CC

**Financial Commissioner,  
Rural Development & Panchayat Deptt.,Pb  
Punjab Civil Secretariat-2, Sector 9, Chandigarh**

Director, ( By name)

Rural Dev. & Panchayats Punjab,  
Vikas Bhawan, Sector 62, Mohali.

**Sh. Lakhbir Singh (M 9592150133)  
Education Panchayat Officer,  
Rani ka Baag,Verka Block, Amritsar**