

CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION

Appeal: No. CIC/OK/A/2006/00016
& C/00068

Dated, the 15th June, 2006

Name of the Appellant : Shri Paramveer Singh
43-A, Mati Das Nagar, Ambala Cantt.

Name of the Public Authority : Punjab University, Chandigarh.

ORDER

Brief Facts:

Shri Paramveer Singh S/o Parvinder Singh, Ambala Cantt had appeared for a driving test and interview for the post of Driver in response to the Panjab University's advertisement No.1/2005. He requested the Registrar, Panjab University on 24-12-2005 to provide him the following information:

1. Merit List of Candidates, who appeared in the driving test & results of the interview.
2. Copy of appointment letters, issued to the successful candidates & the criteria adopted.

2. On 1st February, 2006, PIO, Panjab University supplied him the 'requisite information'. Not satisfied with the PIO's reply, the Requester filed the first Appeal to the Chancellor, Panjab University on 20.2.2006. He did not receive any reply to his first appeal. The Appellant then filed his second appeal with CIC on 8.4.2006 against supply of incorrect information by the University. On 22.5.2006, the Commission issued notices to both the Appellant and Respondent, viz Registrar, Panjab University for a hearing on 15.6.2006. The PIO wrote back on 1.6.2006 that he had not received the copy of the appeal dated 27.3.2006. He also sought exemption from appearance at the hearing on 15.6.2006 before this Commission.

3. The matter was heard on 15th June, 2006 by a bench comprising Dr. O.P. Kejariwal and Dr. M.M. Ansari, Information Commissioners. Shri

Parvinder Singh represented his son Shri Paramveer Singh. The Public Information Officer, Panjab University did not come.

Decision:

4. The Appellant stated that he has been given partial information i.e. copy of appointment letters issued by the University to the candidates who were appointed to the post and the criteria for making selection. However, the University has not supplied him the merit list of candidates who were successful in the driving test and the interview. Instead he has been provided a long list of candidates who were called for the interview. Thus the Respondent has given him misleading information. The Commission found that the PIO has dealt with the request under the RTI Act in a very casual manner. The Commission also noticed that the first Appellate Authority did not respond to the Appellant's appeal dated 20th February, 2006. The Commission also noticed that PIO has not given his own name or the name of the first Appellate Authority in his communications to the Commission. The PIO also did not care to collect from the Appellant a copy of the appeal dated 27.3.2006 which he alleges he had not received. On the contrary he sought exemption from appearance before this Commission on flimsy grounds. The Commission considers it a deliberate attempt on the part of the PIO to flaunt the provisions of RTI Act and defeat the purpose for which Act was enacted.

5. After going through the documents on record and the submissions made by the Appellant, the Commission has come to the conclusion that the PIO has supplied misleading information to the Appellant. The PIO and the Registrar of the Panjab University are hereby directed to supply to the Respondent the merit list of the candidates who appeared in the driving test and the interview as asked by the requester in his letter on 24th December, 2005 within 15 days of the issue of this order and report compliance to this Commission by 3rd July, 2006. PIO/Registrar, Panjab University are further directed to explain why the Commission should not proceed against them for

imposition of penalties envisaged in Section 20 of the RTI Act. Their explanation must reach this Commission by 3rd July, 2006.

6. The Commission ordered accordingly.

Sd/-
(O.P. Kejariwal)
Information Commissioner

Sd/-
(M.M. Ansari)
Information Commissioner

Authenticated true copy:

Sd/-
(Pankaj K.P. Shreyaskar)
Assistant Registrar

Cc:

1. Shri Paramveer Singh, 43-A, Mati Das Nagar, Ambala Cantt.-133001.
2. The Registrar, Punjab University, Chandigarh-160014