IN THE PUNJAB INFORMATION COMMISSION

Ijaz Ahmad

Vs

Director institute of Research department Punjab university Lahore.

Subject: Extraordinary delay in provision of Public Information under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013

Order

15.07.2019 Reference above mentioned RTI complaint and Directive/s dated 19-3-19 issued by the Commission but the provision of pubic information in this case is pending as yet by _____.

2. A public body is under obligation to provide public information within 14 days of receipt of RTI application directly filed to it. In the case at hand a delay of 135 days has already occurred which is a gross violation of law.

3. The Commission was finally constrained to issue a show cause notice dated 25-6-19 to explain the in-ordinate delay while providing a final opportunity uptil 15-07-2019 to provide public information. A clear-cut warning was also given that in case of further in-action the award of penalty shall be seriously considered.

4. The above mentioned authority or PIO of respondent department has not appeared today till the close of working hours. The Commission has also verified from the complainant on telephone that he has not so far received the requisite information. In this view of matter the above mentioned

authority cannot escape the award of penalty as under rule 3(4) the person heading the administrative unit/office is responsible in case PIO does not respond to the directives of Commission or in case PIO is not designated or not available.

5. As a result of above discussion Director institute of Research dept Punjab uni Lahore is awarded penalty Rs.10,000/- u/s 15 of RTI Act 2013 for consistently failed to respond to the directives and show cause notice issued by the Punjab Information Commission. A copy of this order be forwarded to District Accounts Officer concerned/AG Punjab, as the case may be, for implementation under intimation to the undersigned.

