(24)

ORDER SHEET
IN THE PUNJAB INFORMATION COMMISSION

File No.905/2017

Ch. Muhammad Abdullah

Vs

Director of Land Reclamation,
Punjab Irrigation department, Lahore.

Date of order/proceeding	Order with signature of Commission and that of parties or counsel where necessary
20.08.2018	Ch. Muhammad Abdullah, Complainant present. None appeared on behalf of the respondent department.

Ch. Muhammad Abdullah, ex-accounts clerk office of the Director Land Reclamation department applied to Mr. Tariq Yameen, Public Information Officer/Junior Research Officer Director Land Reclamation, Mughalpura Lahore for provision of 14 documents vide his application dated 27.09.2017. The Public Information Officer could not provide information to the applicant and consequently the applicant submitted another application to Rana Muhammad Iqbal, Director Land Reclamation Punjab for provision of same documents vide an application dated 01.11.2017. Despite repeated requests and personal visits neither Mr. Tariq Yameen, PIO nor Rana Muhammad Iqbal, Director Land Reclamation provided information to the applicant.

2. Consequently the applicant Ch Muhammad Abdullah lodged a Complaint with the Punjab Information Commission

for intervening and provision of information on 13.10.2017. The Commission issued notices to Mr. Muhammad Tariq PIO of the office of Director Land Reclamation but the PIO neither provided information nor attended the hearing proceedings before the Punjab Information Commission. Resultantly notices were issued to Public Information Officer on dated 17.10.2017, with a reminder dated 01.11.2017. Despite many reminders, when Muhammad Tariq PIO did not attend the proceeding. After this notice was issued to Rana Muhammad Iqbal, Director on 08.08.2018 with full facts of the case, directing him to provide information to Complainant or appear before the Commission on 20.08.2018. During hearing of the Complaint on 20.08.2018 it transpired that the Complainant having appeared many times before the PIO, department and the Commission, neither Rana Muhammad Iqbal nor any of their representative appeared.

3. A detailed scrutiny of the record, notices issued to department Mr. Muhammad Tariq, PIO and Rana Muhammad Iqbal, Director Land Reclamation shows that he is wilfully defying the law on the subject by not providing the information and repeatedly defying the order of Commission for provision of information. Copy of the notice was also sent to Administrative Secretary Irrigation department with a direction to ensure personal appearance of Rana Muhammad Iqbal but the department could not comply with the directions.

4. This is a case of willful defiance of the law, repeated directions of the Commission, therefore it needs to be checked and curbed in accordance with law. Both the officers Rana

Muhammad Iqbal, Director Land Reclamation, Mr Muhammad Tariq Yameen Public Information Officer, have committed an offence u/s 15 of the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013 by not providing the information malafidely. Consequently after having proved the offence committed by both the officers Rana Muhammad Iqbal Director Land Reclamation and Mr Muhammad Tariq Yameen Public Information Officer are hereby fined Rs.50,000/- each which shall be deducted from their salaries by Accountant General Punjab, Lahore. Accountant General Punjab shall comply with the order under intimation to this Commission, within 15 days.

5. Through this order both the officers are directed to provide information within 15 days of the issuance of this order and if the information is not provided to the Complainant, proceedings u/s 16 shall be initiated after the lapse of deadline given above. Copy of the order be sent to AG Punjab for deduction of Salaries and Secretary Irrigation department for making entries in the dossier of both the officers for record.

Announced
20.08.2018

(Saeed Akhter Ansari)
Information Commissioner

(Hassan Iqbal)
Information Commissioner