

**CWP-35067-2024**

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208**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH****CWP-35067-2024**Date of Decision :**14.05.2026****KARUNA**

.....Petitioner

VERSUS**THE STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION OF HARYANA AND
OTHERS**

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KULDEEP TIWARIPresent : Mr. Sube S. Kaushik, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. Bhupender Singh, Addl.AG, Haryana.

KULDEEP TIWARI, J.(Oral)

1. The State Information Commission, Haryana (respondent No. 1), while disposing of Show Cause Notice No. 1981 of 2024 issued to the present petitioner (State Public Information Officer), imposed a penalty of Rs. 25,000/- for non-furnishing of complete information sought by respondent No. 3 (the applicant) under the RTI Act, 2005, vide impugned order dated 29.08.2024 (Annexure P-14). Aggrieved thereby, the instant writ petition, under Article 226/227 of the Constitution of India, has been filed.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner, submits that respondent no.3 was an Associate Professor in Maharaja Agrasen College, Jagadhari, where the petitioner was functioning as the SPIO under the RTI Act. A dispute had arisen between respondent No. 3 and the College with regard to the benefit of the suspension period and grant of two annual

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increments, and in order to settle scores, respondent no. 3 had been filing multiple RTI applications. It is further submitted that each RTI application was duly replied to, and point-wise information was furnished. In the present case as well, all the information sought by respondent No. 3 was duly supplied.

3. He next submits that although the learned State Information Commission, vide the impugned order, recorded that complete information had not been furnished by the petitioner-SPIO, however, there is no specific disclosure in the order as to which particular information had not been supplied.

4. He finally submits that the dispute with respondent no. 3 now stands settled, and respondent no.3 has furnished an undertaking before the President, Governing Body, Maharaja Agrasen Mahavidyalaya, stating that he would withdraw all RTI applications, as well as, the case pending before the District Court, Jagadhari, pertaining to the dispute regarding the PF account.

5. This Court, vide order dated 09.09.2025, directed the petitioner to file a specific affidavit, disclosing therein, whether, the complete information sought by respondent no.3 through application (Annexure P-1) had been supplied to her or not. In compliance with the said direction, a specific affidavit dated 04.12.2025 has been filed, wherein, the petitioner has stated that all the information sought by respondent No. 3 had been furnished to her. The relevant is extracted hereinafter:-

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“2. That it is submitted that the respondent No.3 had filed an RTI application dated 06.07.2023 (Annexure P-1) containing 22 points and multiple sub-points. The information was supplied by the then SPIO cum Principal in written reply dated 04.08.2023 (Annexure P-2).

3. That thereafter, the respondent No.3 preferred a First Appeal and subsequently a Second Appeal before the State Information Commission. During the pendency of the Second Appeal, the Hon'ble Commission, vide order dated 18.04.2024 (Annexure P-6), directed the petitioner to revisit the RTI application and furnish pointwise permissible information.

4. That in strict compliance with the aforesaid order, the deponent revisited the entire RTI application and submitted a fresh written reply dated 16.05.2024 (Annexure P-7), specifically stating that all information available in the records had already been supplied and nothing had been withheld.

5. That further, vide letter dated 17.05.2024 along with enclosed correspondence (Annexure P-8), the deponent again clarified to respondent No.3 the status of information available in the office record and reiterated that the information had been duly supplied.

6. That despite complete compliance, a show cause notice dated 30.05.2024 (Annexure P-9) was issued by the Commission, whereupon the petitioner submitted a detailed and pointwise reply dated 01.07.2024 (Annexure P-10), enclosing all earlier replies, the undertaking of respondent No.3, and the supporting documents.

7. That thereafter, on 28.06.2024, the petitioner again supplied the entire RTI information in an annotated, revisited, and clarified manner to respondent No.3, covering every query raised in Annexure P-1. A copy of this complete information supplied is Annexure P-11 to the writ petition.

8. That on 02.07.2024, the deponent submitted a formal compliance report before the State Information Commission (Annexure P-12), clearly declaring that the RT application dated 06.07.2023 had been revisited in its entirety and that a permissible and available information had already been supplied pointwise respondent No.3.

9. That on 17.07.2024, the deponent again filed a final written compliance (Annexure P-13), repeating that the petitioner had fully complied with the Commission's directions and that the complete information sought by respondent No.3 stood supplied. No deficiency or pendency existed at that stage.”

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6. This Court has considered the submission of learned counsel for the petitioner. The undertaking dated 13.04.2022 furnished by respondent No. 3 to the President, Governing Body, Maharaja Agrasen Mahavidyalaya, assumes significance, inasmuch as, he undertook to withdraw all the applications filed by him under the RTI Act. This clearly indicates that respondent no. 3 had received all the requisite information, and therefore, he chose not to contest the present petition by appearing before this Court.

7. Since the information as sought, complete in all respect has been supplied to respondent no.3 (applicant), and the dispute appears to have primarily arisen out of service-related issues, this Court is of the considered view that the penalty imposed upon the petitioner vide the impugned order deserves to be set aside. Accordingly, the impugned order is interfered with only to the extent of setting aside the penalty imposed upon the petitioner.

8. **Disposed of** accordingly.

9. All pending application(s), if any, also stand **disposed of** accordingly.

May 14, 2026
dharamvir

(KULDEEP TIWARI)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned.	:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable.	:	Yes/No