



CWP-17203-2020

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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

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CWP-17203-2020

Date of Decision :25.03.2025

Jaspreet Singh

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab & others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARSIMRAN SINGH SETHI

Present: Mr. Tarun Deora, Advocate for
Mr. Ferry Sofat, Advocate with petitioner in person.

Ms. Akshita Chauhan, DAG, Punjab.

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Harsimran Singh Sethi, J. (Oral)

1. In the present petition, challenge is to the order dated 27.06.2017 (Annexure P/1) as well as order dated 19.06.2020 (Annexure P/3) by which, prayer of the petitioner to review the order dated 27.06.2017 (Annexure P/1) has been declined by the respondent-Commission.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that by the impugned order dated 27.06.2017 (Annexure P/1), a complete ban has been imposed upon the petitioner to seek information under the RTI Act, 2005, which blanket ban is liable to be set aside. Hence, it is the prayer of the petitioner that both these aforementioned orders be set aside.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner further submits that he has instructions from the petitioner, who is also present in Court that he will only exercise his right under the Right to Information Act, 2005 to seek information in case, the same is in public interest and not with the motive to

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harass any official or any particular department and no information sought by the petitioner under the RTI Act, 2005 will be asked in a revengeful manner from the department where the petitioner remained as an employee.

4. Learned counsel for the respondents submits that the detailed reasons have been given by the Commission while passing the impugned order dated 27.06.2017 (Annexure P/1) and therefore, the petitioner has rightly been debarred from filing application under the RTI, Act 2005.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and have gone through the record with their able assistance.

6. The blanket ban should not have been imposed upon the petitioner so as to deny him to seek information under the RTI, Act 2005 whereas, only the information which is asked by the petitioner with a motive to harass any official or particular department or is asked in a revengeful manner, the ban should have been imposed upon the petitioner qua seeking only such kind of information.

7. Further, the impugned order imposing the blanket ban upon the petitioner to seek information under the RTI, Act 2005 has been passed by the Commission about 7 and half years ago.

8. Keeping in view the totality of the circumstances, present petition is disposed of with the observation that the petitioner will be free to file application seeking information under the RTI, Act 2005 but only in accordance to the undertaking recorded hereinbefore, that the said information sought should be in public interest and should not be asked with the motive to harass any official or particular department or with a revengeful attitude. It is made clear that in case any information sought by

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the petitioner, the Public Information Commission, Punjab comes to the conclusion that same is contrary to the undertaking given by the petitioner as recorded hereinbefore, appropriate order can be passed by the Commission for declining the grant of said information or for debarring the petitioner from seeking information for a particular period of time.

9. Present petition is disposed of in above terms.

March 25, 2025*aarti***(HARSIMRAN SINGH SETHI)****JUDGE***Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes**Whether reportable : No*