

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
'Kamat Towers', Seventh Floor, Patto, Panaji – Goa

CORAM: Shri Juino De Souza State Information Commissioner

Appeal No. 67/SCIC/2012

223

Shri Joao C. Pereira,
H.No. 40
Acsona, Utorda
Majorda, Majorda Salcete –Goa.
v/s

..... Appellant

1. Public Information Officer
Suptd. of police (HQ),
Police Headquarter
Panaji-Goa

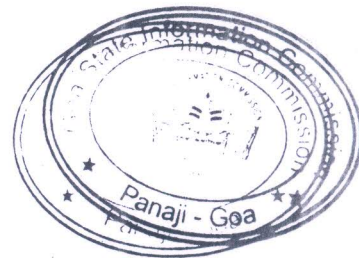
.....Respondent

2. First Appellate Authority,
Inspector General of Police,
Police Headquarter
Panaji-Goa.

Relevant emerging dates:

Date of Hearing : 24-06-2016

Date of Decision : 24-06-2016



ORDER

1. Brief facts of the case are that the Appellant had vide his application dated 14/10/2011 sought certain information from the Respondent PIO, the information pertains to information relating to section 4(1)(b). The PIO vide his letter dated 10/11/2011 furnished the information and not being satisfied the Appellant filed a First appeal on 17/11/2011 which was disposed off by the FAA vide his order dated 06/12/2011 and being aggrieved the Appellant has come in a Second Appeal before this commission on 21/02/2012
2. During the hearing the Appellant Mr. Joao C. Pereira is present in person. The Respondent PIO is represented by Shri Ratnakar Kalangutkar PSI and alongwith Sachin Gawade, Police Constable are both present in person.
3. The representative for the Respondent PIO submits that all information was furnished to the Appellant and shows the commission the acknowledgment of the Appellant having received hard copies of information given including the organizational chart showing the functioning of the Police Department, powers and duties of staff offices and all employees as per Section 4 (1)(b) and the procedure followed in making decision relating the 17 manual of the Goa Police Department.

o/c

4. The representative of the Respondent PIO further submits that the Appellant had filed First Appeal on 17/11/2011 which was disposed by FAA on 06/12/2011 holding that information was furnished to the applicant who was appellant herein from Sr. (a) to (g) vide letter No.PHQ/PET-CELL/RTI-396/1612/2011 dated 10/11/2012 relating to work of 17 manual are complied and uploaded on the Government website and as such nothing survives in the appeal case.
5. Per contra the Appellant in his submission has stated that although information has been furnished to him the same is not sufficient and the Police department is not keen in implementing Sections 4 (1)(a) & 4 (1)(b) in a full, fair and complete manner. The Appellant contends that the Police Head Quarters website does not contain sufficient details of the working of the Police organization specially with respect to names of various officers posted in different police departments as also their powers, duties of officers and employees attached to Police Head Quarter and that he had sought information in public interest.
6. The Appellant further argues that the police department is the important public authority that the public approach in times of difficulty and distress and that this department should be leading in disseminating information to the public. The Appellant requests the commission to issue appropriate directions to the DGP so that all important information is uploaded timely on the police website.
7. The Commission has perused the material on record and finds that although information has been furnished the same is not sufficiently enough, more so as the appellant has filed the RTI application in public interest and is also pursuing the present appeal actively. The Commission therefore of the considered opinion that this public authority should take an active initiative by striving to regularly improve the police web site so that more information pertaining to all police related activity can be available to public on the web site itself.
8. There is definitely a lapse in time bound compliance of the provisions of section 4 of the RTI Act and which has resulted in growing complaints and appeals for non-disclosures of information. The Commission on opening the police web site finds that sufficient and elaborate information is not available for the public e.g various police stations carry the name and photograph of only the police inspector, the names of other officers and staff posted is not given, besides

there are no details of territorial jurisdiction, area / population covered and the crime chart / graph of each police station, also the name of the SDPO and his contact telephone is not available. The Commission is of the view that the web site should undergo transformation so that information involving all police functioning is made available to the public.

10. The Commission in this connection and also in exercise of the powers vested under section 19(8) read with Section 15(4) of the Act, therefore directs the Police Public authority to ensure that the records are cataloged, indexed and made accessible through web site so as to disseminate maximum information to citizens as envisaged in section 4 (1)(a) of the Act. All relevant information (17 points) should be pro actively disclosed on the website and should be reviewed and updated at regular intervals for access to citizens as envisaged in section 4(1)(b) of the Act.
11. The Commission shall appreciate if the Head of the Department of the public authority i.e. the DGP will monitor the web site regularly and ensures that some lacunae are amended so that all important police information is made available to the public in a time bound manner. A compliance report on the steps taken not only to improve the web site but also proper dissemination of all relevant information pertaining to section 4 of the RTI Act should be sent to the commission within 90 days of the date of this order.

With these observations the Appeal case stands closed. Pronounced at the conclusion of the hearing before the parties who are present. Notify the parties concerned. Authenticated copies of Order be given to the parties free of cost.

Copy of this order be sent to the Director General Of Police and Chief Secretary, Govt. of Goa



Received
Office of Chief Secretary

To,
Chief Secretary
D/o C.S.
Secretariat

Sd/-
(Juino De Souza)
State Information Commissioner