

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

CORAM: Shri Juino De Souza: State Information Commissioner

Appeal No.82/2018/SIC-II

Peter Paul D'Souza,
H.No. 63/2, Mainath Bhatti Vaddo,
Arpora, Bardez, Goa – 403 516

..... Appellant

v/s

1. Public Information Officer,
The Secretary,
Village Panchayat of Arpora-Nagoa,
Bardez, Goa – 403 516

2. First Appellate Authority,
The Block Development Officer–II,
Government Complex, Mapusa,

..... Respondents

Relevant emerging dates:

Date of Hearing : 16-11-2018

Date of Decision : 16-11-2018

ORDER

1. **Brief facts** of the case are that the Appellant vide an RTI application dated 08/01/2018 sought certain information u/s 6(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 from the PIO, Secretary, V.P Arpora-Nagoa, Bardez-Goa. The information is on two points. In point no 1. the Appellant has sought to provide the dates of all the Panchayat body meetings held in the month of October 2017, November 2017, December 2017 and January 2018 and in point no 2. to provide the certified copies of minutes of all the Panchayat body meetings held for the month of October 2017, November 2017, December 2017 and January 2018.
2. It is the case of the Appellant that the PIO did not furnish any information nor has given any reply which is mandatory u/s 7(1) and as such the Appellant filed a First Appeal dated 08/02/2018 and First Appellate Authority (FAA) vide an order dated 13/03/2018 directed the Respondent PIO to furnish the information sought by the Appellant in the RTI Application dated 08/01/2018 within 7 days of the date of the order, free of cost.

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3. Being aggrieved that despite the order of the FAA, the PIO has not furnished the information, the Appellant subsequently has filed a Second Appeal with the Commission registered on 09/04/2018 and has prayed that the PIO be directed to furnish the information free of cost and to impose penalty, disciplinary action and other such reliefs.
4. **HEARING:** This matter has come up before the Commission on 4 previous occasions and at the request of the Appellant is taken up for final disposal. During hearing Appellant Shri Peter Paul D'Souza is present in person and Respondent PIO is absent.
5. **SUBMISSION:** At the outset the Appellant submits that he sought simple information regarding the dates and certified copies of the minutes of the Panchayat body meetings held in October 2017, November 2017, December 2017 and January 2018 and that the PIO has intentionally not provided any information. The Appellant further submitted that the FAA had also directed the PIO to furnish information vide an Order dated 13/03/2018 and yet the PIO has not furnished any information till date. The Appellant requested Commission to direct the PIO to furnish information immediately and to impose penalty and initiate disciplinary action.
6. **FINDINGS:** The Commission after hearing the submissions of the Appellant and on perusing the material on record finds that there is no reply filed by the PIO to explain as to why he failed to provide the information despite the directions given by the FAA in his order.
7. The Commission also finds that the information sought by the Appellant in the RTI application is regarding the dates and certified copies of minutes of the Panchayat body meetings held in October 2017, November 2017, December 2017 and January 2018 and which the PIO can very well furnish from the minute book.

8. **CONCLUSION/DECISION**: The Second Appeal is allowed. No intervention is required with the Order of the FAA. The Commission directs the PIO to furnish the information regarding the dates and minutes of all Panchayat body meeting held in the month of October 2017, November 2017, December 2017 and January 2018 as was sought by the Appellant in his RTI application dated 08/01/2018 without delay. The PIO, Secretary, V.P Arpora-Nagoa, Bardez-Goa. In any case shall furnish the said information within 15 days of the receipt of the order.

With these directions the Appeal case accordingly stands disposed.

All proceedings in Appeal case stands closed. Pronounced before the parties who are present at the conclusion of the hearing. Notify the parties concerned. Authenticated copies of the order be given free of cost.

**Sd/-
(Juino De Souza)
State Information Commissioner**