

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

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Complaint No. 09/2020

Shri Vaikunth V. Parab Gaonkar,
Gaonkar Wada,
Bicholim Goa,
403504.

-----Complainant

v/s

Shri. Sachin Desai,
The Public Information Officer
O/o. Deputy Collector,
Sub Division Bicholim,
Bicholim-Goa.

-----Opponent

Shri Vishwas R. Satarkar - State Chief Information Commissioner

Filed on:-20/01/2020

Decided on:-15/07/2021

FACTS IN BRIEF

1. Complainant herein by his application dated 27/11/2019, filed under sec 6(1) of the Right to Information Act 2005 (Act for short) sought information as under:

“The name and correct postal address along with Pin code number, within jurisdiction of the present Deputy Collector, S.D.O and S.D.M. of Bicholim Taluka.”

2. The Complainant states that since the Public Information Officer, office of Deputy Collector, Bicholim failed to furnish the requisite information within the stipulated time, requested the PIO again on, 07/01/2020 to supply the information within a grace period of 72 hours.

Complainant submits that since the PIO failed to provide the information within stipulated period, he filed the present complaint praying therein to impose penalty in terms of sec 20 of the Act.

3. Notices were issued to the parties. Pursuant to which PIO appeared however opted not to file any reply. Complainant appeared once on 26/03/2021 but failed to remain present on all subsequent hearings dated 07/07/2021 and 15/07/2021.
4. Perused the complaint memo and other material on record. On bare perusal of the application made to the PIO, office of Deputy Collector, S.D.O & S.D.M., Bicholim Taluka, Bicholim Goa there is an address mentioned in the letter. From the applicant's address it is seen that the Complainant also has addressed at Bicholim. Letter is inwards in the office, with due acknowledgment from the office. The Complainant sends reminders to the same office, which is also acknowledged; both the applications are acknowledged on the same day. This means, the Complainant is aware of the location and premises of the office.

In the complaint memo, the Complainant has written the name of the officer, followed by the word "PIO" and the office address. The Complainant has also mentioned his pin number, addressed at Bicholim.

This documents generated at the level of applicant/ Complainant indicate that he is well aware of the information he is seeking from the PIO. "The Name and correct postal address and Pincode" is all that is sought and not a bunch of documents or paper from any file or record. All this information is already part of the document generated by the Complainant himself.

5. Therefore it appears that, it is not a genuine request of the Complainant, seeking some precious information in terms of sec

2(f) of the RTI Act, but attempt to annoy and discomfit the PIO. Information sought has no relationship to any public activity or public interest and if it all there is any, the applicant has failed to bring it on.

Before parting with matter, Commissioner find that approach of the Complainant in dealing with RTI Act is not appropriate, rather it is utter abuse and misuse of the Act, to harass the PIO to settle personal score and ego.

Hon'ble Supreme Court in **CBSE v/s Aditya Bandopadhyay & Ors. (C.A.No. 6454 of 2011)** has held that

"37. Right to Information is a cherished right. Information and right to information are intended to be formidable tools in the hands of responsible citizens to fight corruption and to bring in transparency and accountability.....

.....Indiscriminate and impractical demands or directions under RTI Act for disclosure of all and sundry information (unrelated to transparency and accountability in the functioning of public authorities and eradication of corruption) would be counter-productive, as it will adversely effect the efficiency of the administration and result in the executive getting bogged down with the non-productive work.....

.....The act should not be allowed to be misused or abused, to become tool to obstruct the national development and integration, or to destroy the peace, tranquility and harmony among its citizens."

Applying the above observation of the Hon'ble Apex Court, I find it appropriate to remind the Complainant to exercise the right

granted to him by Legislature with great responsibility and not to use it to satisfy personal ego.

Complainant is warned to desist from filing such vexations complaint in future.

I dispose the present complaint with the following order.

O R D E R

Complaint stand dismissed.

Proceedings closed.

Pronounced in open court.

Notify the Parties.

Sd/-

(Vishwas R. Satarkar)

State Chief Information Commissioner