GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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> Penalty No. 16/2021 in Appeal No. 83/2021/SCIC

Rosalia Bella Fernandes, H.No. 65, Curpavaddo, Cortalim- Goa. 403710.

.....Appellant

V/S

1. Mr. Narayan Azgaonkar, The Public Information Officer, Village Panchayat Quelossim, Quelossim, Mormugao-Goa. 403710.

 Shri. Prasiddh P. Naik, The First Appellate Authority, Office of the Block Development Officer, Mormugao Block, 2nd Floor, Our Lady of Guia Building, Vasco-da-Gama, Goa. 403802.

.....Respondents

Shri. Vishwas R. Satarkar

State Chief Information Commissioner

Filed on: 10/12/2021 Decided on: 22/03/2022

<u>ORDER</u>

1. While disposing the above referred appeal No. 83/2021/SCIC by order dated 12/11/2021, this Commission had directed the PIO to furnish the information free of cost to the Appellant within the period of 15 days from the date of receipt of the order.

The PIO, Shri. Narayan Azgaonkar, Village Panchayat Secretary of Village Panchayat Quelossim, Mormugao-Goa was also directed to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on him in terms of section 20(1) and/or section 20(2) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter to be referred as 'Act').

2. The PIO, Shri. Narayan Azgaonkar appeared on 10/12/2021 and filed his reply in the matter and matter was posted for arguments on 27/01/2022.

- 3. During the course of arguments on 27/01/2022, PIO appeared and submitted that he has furnished all the information to the Appellant. He also produced on record the letter dated 10/01/2022 to substantiate his claim.
- 4. The PIO also pointed out the acknowledgement of Appellant having received the information on 13/01/2022.
- 5. After receiving the information the Appellant has remained absent on all subsequent hearing. I therefore presume and hold that the Appellant is satisfied with the information provided by PIO.
- 6. Record reveals that, in order to resolve the issue, the PIO has provided inspection of entire file to the Appellant and then furnished the purported information to the Appellant free of cost, thereby complying the order of the Commission promptly.
- 7. PIO submitted that, delay was caused due to the administration work of two Village Panchayats. He failed to explain why he did not appear before the Commission and did not reply to the grievance of the Appellant.
- 8. However, in view of the remorse as expressed by the PIO and that he has furnished all the information promptly to the Appellant, a lenient view is taken being his first fault. Show cause notice dated 26/11/2021 stands withdrawn. Proceeding dropped. Pronounced in open court. Notify the Parties.

Sd/-(Vishwas R. Satarkar) State Chief Information Commissioner