

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

'Kamat Towers', Seventh Floor, Patto, Panaji –Goa

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**Penalty No. 21/2022
in
Appeal No. 75/2022/SCIC**

Mr. Dean D'Cruz,
Mozaic, 1 Design Valley,
Alto, Porvorim, Bardez-Goa 403521.

.....Appellant

V/S

1. The Public Information Officer,
V.P. Secretary,
Village Panchayat Saligao,
Saligao, Bardez-Goa 403511.

2. The First Appellate Authority,
Block Development Officer –I Bardez, Mapusa,
Office of the Block Development Officer-I,
Mapusa-Badrez-Goa 403507.

.....Opponents

Shri. Vishwas R. Satarkar

State Chief Information Commissioner

Filed on: 09/09/2022

Decided on: 13/12/2022

ORDER

1. While disposing the Appeal bearing No. 75/2022/SCIC, the Commission by its order dated 20/07/2022 directed the show cause to the Public Information Officer (PIO), Ms. Pravisha Bhonsle, Panchayat Secretary of Village Panchayat Saligao, Bardez-Goa as to why the penalty should not be imposed on her in terms of Section 20(1) and/or recommend disciplinary proceeding against her in terms of Section 20(2) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (the Act).
2. The PIO, Ms. Pravisah Bhonsle appeared and filed her reply to the show cause notice on 09/09/2022. In spite of valid service of notice, the Appellant opted not to appear in the proceeding.
3. Through her reply dated 09/09/2022, the PIO submitted that, from about October 2021 two of the staff from the office of V.P. Saligao

was deputed for BLO duties which continued till the election were completed on 14/02/2022, therefore she was overburden with the workload and under tremendous pressure due to lack of manpower.

She also contended that, due to two of the staff of the Panchayat were infected due to Covid, the entire work was halted and therefore she could not furnish the information within stipulated time. She also submitted that, since no construction licence/ permission has been issued by the public authority no information was generated and accordingly same was conveyed to the Appellant.

4. She also tendered unconditional apology for delay in furnishing the information and assured that she will resolve RTI issue on most priority basis in future.

5. In view of reasonable and satisfactory reason shown by the PIO and also in the light of remorse as expressed by her, a lenient view is taken. However, the PIO is made aware that she shall be diligent henceforth in dealing with the process of RTI Act and shall give due priority.

Show cause notice dated 28/07/2022 issued in the penalty proceeding is dropped.

- Proceeding closed.
- Pronounced in open court.
- Notify the parties.

Sd/-

(Vishwas R. Satarkar)

State Chief Information Commissioner