

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

"Kamat Towers" 7th Floor, Patto Plaza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001

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Appeal No.73/2024/SCIC

Shri. Pandharinath N. Parab,
Secretary, IDC Retired Staff Welfare Association
Post Box No. 452,
Panaji, Goa 403001.

-----Appellant

V/s

1. Shri Sohan Uskaikar,
Public Information Officer,
Office of Goa Industrial Development Corporation,
Plot No. 13 A, EDC Complex,
Patto Plaza, Panaji Goa.

2. Shri Philomeno Pereira,
The First Appellate Authority,
Office of Goa Industrial Development Corporation,
Plot No. 13 A, EDC Complex,
Patto Plaza, Panaji Goa.

-----Respondents

Shri. ARAVIND KUMAR H. NAIR - State Chief Information Commissioner, GSIC

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	04/10/2023
PIO replied on	03/11/2023
First Appeal filed on	26/12/2023
First Appellate order on	23/02/2024
Second appeal received on	20/03/2024
Decided on	30/06/2025

Information sought and background of the Appeal

1. Shri. Pandharinath N. Parab filed an application dated 04/10/2023 under RTI Act, 2005 to the PIO, Goa Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) seeking following information :
 - i. *"Copies of sublease orders issued to all the units in Industrial Estates Kundaim, Cuncolim and Verna from 01-04-2021 to 31-08-2023.*
 - ii. *Notings and copies of correspondence made with the party by Goa Industrial Development Corporation to comply sublease conditions.*
 - iii. *Copies of correspondence/replies received from the parties.*
 - iv. *Copies of payment receipts issued by Goa Industrial Development Corporation to the units in response to Point No. 1 above."*

2. In response to the RTI application, PIO, Goa Industrial Development Corporation vide letter dated 03/11/2023 informed the Appellant to collect the information sought at Point No. 4 of the RTI application and to inspect the files pertaining to the information sought at Point No. 1, 2 and 3 as the sought information is voluminous in nature.
3. Therefore, Appellant filed first appeal dated 26/12/2023 before the First Appellate Authority.
4. After hearing both the parties to the first appeal, FAA (Goa Industrial Development Corporation) vide order dated 23/02/2024 directed the Respondent PIO to keep the files pertaining to Point No. 1, 2 and 3 of the RTI application for the inspection by the Appellant, free of cost.
5. Subsequently, Appellant preferred second appeal dated 20/03/2024 before the Commission stating that:
 - i) Respondent No. 1 and 2 have collectively failed to provide complete information as sought.
 - ii) First Appellate Authority took 69 days to decide the first appeal and that too without citing any reason.Appellant prayed for direction to the Respondent No. 1 and 2 to furnish complete information.

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

6. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal by the Appellant, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 23/01/2025 for which Appellant and Respondents were present. Respondent PIO agreed to file reply to the appeal memo on the next date of hearing slated for 17/02/2025.

7. When the matter called out for hearing on 17/02/2025, Appellant and Respondent PIO present. Respondent PIO filed submission along with enclosures with an additional copy to the Appellant who duly acknowledged the same and agreed to file rejoinder on the next date of hearing, 12/03/2025.
8. Matter further heard on 12/03/2025, 21/04/2025 and 29/05/2025. During the course of these hearings, Presiding Commissioner orally directed the Respondent PIO to furnish information sought by the Appellant at Point No. 01, 02 and 03 of his RTI application dated 04/10/2023. Matter fixed for hearing on 30/06/2025.
9. On 30/06/2025, Respondent PIO filed written submission stating that complying with the directions issued by the Hon'ble Goa State Information Commission, Respondent PIO has furnished all information sought by the Appellant, free of cost, vide letter dated 19/05/2025 and 30/06/2025. Respondent PIO further submitted that information provided to the Appellant vide letter dated 30/06/2025 includes copies of allotment order, Transfer order and Sub-lease Order.

Respondent PIO prayed that since the Appellant received sought information, that too free of cost as per the directions of the Hon'ble Commission, present appeal may kindly be disposed off.

COMMISSION'S OBSERVATION

10. Based on the grounds mentioned in the appeal, submissions and arguments placed before the Commission by the parties to the Appeal, Commission has come to the conclusion that :
 - i) Respondent PIO had furnished only part information (in respect of Point No. 04 of RTI application dated 04/10/2023) to the Appellant in his original application giving an opportunity to physically inspect the files/documents pertaining to the information sought at Point No. 01, 02 and 03 of the RTI application on the ground of information sought is voluminous in nature.

- ii) Appellant however found reluctant to conduct inspection of files over the issue of fee for inspection.
- iii) First Appellate Authority however directed the Respondent PIO to grant inspection of records free of cost.
- iv) From the onset of the proceedings in the present appeal, Presiding Commissioner directed the Respondent PIO to furnish information to the Appellant, free of cost.
- v) Respondent PIO committed delay in furnishing information on the ground of voluminous in nature and the need of engaging more resources to gather sought information.
- vi) Since the Commission's prime aim is to make information available to the Appellant, Presiding Commissioner directed the Respondent PIO to ensure that information sought is furnished to the Appellant, that too free of cost.

ORDER

Since the Respondent PIO furnished desired information to the Appellant, free of cost, after intervention by the Commission, it is decided to dispose the present appeal and proceedings stands closed.

- Proceeding stands closed.
- Pronounced in open Court.
- Notify the parties.

Aggrieved party if any, may move against this order by way of a Writ Petition as no further Appeal is provided against this order under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Sd/-

(ARAVIND KUMAR H. NAIR)
State Chief Information Commissioner, GSIC

