

## **GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**

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

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### **Appeal No. 85/2024/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,  
The Public Information Officer,  
Office of Goa Industrial Development Corporation,  
Plot No. 13A, EDC Complex,  
Patto Plaza, Panaji-Goa.

2. Shri. Philomeno Pereira,  
The First Appellate Authority,  
Goa Industrial Development Corporation,  
Plot No. 13A, 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
<b>Second appeal received on</b>	<b>03/04/2024</b>
<b>Decided on</b>	<b>30/06/2025</b>

### **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 with reference to Advertisement published in the local dailies on 14/03/2023 for allotment of industrial plots in various industrial estates :
  - i. *"Allotment orders issued so far, Handing/Taking over report of the plots and copies of payments.*
  - ii. *Copies of Transfer orders issued to all the unit.*

- iii. *Notings and copies of correspondences made with the party by the Goa Industrial Development Corporation.*
- iv. *Copies of correspondence/replies received from the parties.*
- v. *Copies of payment receipts, issued by Goa Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC).*
- vi. *Copies of Monthly Progress Reports submitted by the concerned Field Managers."*

2. In response to the RTI application, PIO/Goa Industrial Development Corporation vide letter dated 03/11/2023 replied to the Appellant to collect information with respect to Point No. 1 and 5 on any working days on payment of Rs. 182/- and since information in respect of Point No. 2, 3, 4 and 6 is voluminous, PIO requested the Appellant to inspect the concerned files with prior appointment.
3. Subsequently PIO vide letter dated 12/12/2023 informed the Appellant to visit the office of the PIO during office hours on December 20-22, 2023 to inspect the files pertaining to the information sought at Point No. 02, 03, 04 and 06 of the RTI application.
4. Thereafter, Appellant filed first appeal dated 26/12/2023 before the First Appellate Authority praying for direction to the PIO to furnish complete information.
5. First Appellate Authority (Goa Industrial Development Corporation) after hearing both the parties to the first appeal vide order dated 23/02/2024 directed the Respondent PIO to keep the files pertaining to Point No. 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the RTI application ready for inspection, free of cost.
6. Subsequently, the Appellant preferred second appeal dated 03/04/2024 before the Commission stating that :
  - i) Respondent No. 1 (Public Information Officer) and Respondent No. 2 (First Appellate Authority) have collectively failed to provide complete information as sought.

- ii) First Appellate Authority failed to decide the first appeal within the prescribed time limit.

Appellant prayed for direction to the Respondent No. 1 and 2 to furnish complete information.

### **FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING**

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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. 1, 2 and 3 of his RTI application dated 04/10/2023. Respondent PIO further submitted that complying with the direction of the Presiding Commissioner, voluminous information containing 2465 copies of documents, which includes allotment order, transfer order, sublease order and progress report of Verna Industrial Estate for the period from 11/04/2021 to 31/08/2023, has been furnished to the Appellant, free of cost, vide letter dated 19/05/2025.
10. 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.

11. 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**

12. 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. 4 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. 1, 2 and 3 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 Appellants, Presiding Commissioner directed the Respondent PIO to ensure that information sought is furnished to the Appellant, that too free of cost.

**ORDER**

- i. Commission is of the opinion that the Respondent PIO vide letter dated 17/11/2023 had furnished information pertaining to the Point No. 01 and 05 of the Appellant's RTI application dated 04/10/2023 but requested the Appellant to inspect the concerned files pertaining to the information sought at Point No. 2, 3, 4 and 6.**
  
- ii. Subsequently following the intervention by the Commission, Respondent PIO vide letter dated 19/05/2025 furnished information comprising of 2465 documents including copies of Allotment order, Transfer orders, sublease orders and Progress Report for the period from 01/04/2021 to 31/08/2023 to the Appellant, free of cost.**
  
- iii. Since the Respondent PIO has furnished information in accordance to the Appellant, RTI application dated 04/10/2023 following the intervention by the Commission, present appeal does not warrant further proceeding.**
  - Matter disposed.
  - 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

