

**GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**

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**Complaint No. 29/2023/SCIC**

Sandesh Narvekar,  
H. No. 333,  
Shetye Wado, Near Duler Football Ground,  
Mapusa, Goa 403507

.....Complainant

V/s

The State Public Information Officer,  
TJSB Bank, 001, Ground floor,  
Nova Goa Building,  
Dr. Atmaram Borkar Road,  
Panaji-Goa

..... Opponent

**Shri. Vishwas R. Satarkar**, State Chief Information Commissioner

**Filed on: 01/09/2023**

**Decided on: 16/01/2024**

**ORDER**

1. The Complainant, Shri. Sandesh Narvekar, r/o. House No. 333, Shetye Wado, Near Duler Football Ground, Mapusa Goa, vide his application dated 18/07/2023 filed under section 6(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter to be referred as Act), sought certain information from the Public Information Officer (PIO), TJSB Sahakari Bank Limited, Panaji-Goa.
2. Since said application was not responded by the PIO within stipulated time of 30 days, deeming the same as refusal, the complainant preferred this Complaint proceeding before the

Commission under Section 18 of the Act, praying for various reliefs.

3. Notices were issued to the parties, pursuant to which, Complainant appeared in person on 04/10/2023, the PIO Shri. Sowmil Nadkarni appeared and filed his reply on 04/10/2023.
4. The PIO, through his reply dated 04/10/2023, contended that, TJSB Sahakari Bank Limited is registered under Multi State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 and no funds from State or Central Government are invested in capital of the Bank, apart from that there is no government representative in the Bank, therefore they are not coming within the purview of the Right to Information Act. To substantiate his case, he relied upon the order passed by State Information Commission, Maharashtra, Konkan Division in the case **Shri. Suryakant Ragho Sawant V/s PIO, TJSB Sahakari Bank Ltd. And another (A. No. 3804/2015)**.
5. Insofar the issue of Co-operative Societies is concerned, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of **Thalappalam Service Co-operative Bank Limited and others V/s State of Kerala and Others ((2013) 16 SCC 82)** has held that Co-operative societies registered under the Co-operative Societies Act, would not fall within the definition of a public authority under the RTI Act, the said issue is fortified by Hon'ble State Information Commissioner of Maharashtra, Konkan Division in the case of Suryakant R. Sawant V/s PIO, TJSB Sahakari Bank (Supra) and has held that TJSB Sahakari Bank Limited is not coming within the purview of the RTI Act.

6. The Complainant urged that, the attitude of the PIO is very casual and even they were not bothered to file the reply to his RTI application.
7. For which the PIO responded that he has already filed reply to the RTI application on 18/07/2023 and dispatched the registered letter on the address which was appeared in the RTI application, however same is returned back with the postal endorsement 'address insufficient return to sender'. The Commission, therefore, directed the PIO to place on record the copy of acknowledgement receipt and matter was fixed for arguments.
8. By letter dated 07/12/2023, the PIO placed on record the copy of covering letter alongwith copy of A/D card of the postal department. The record indicates that the PIO has filed necessary reply to the Complainant on both the addresses which are available with them.
9. Perusing the acknowledgement receipt and the copy of reply, the Complainant submitted that he does not wish to proceed further in the matter. In view of the above submission of the Complainant, the matter is disposed off.

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

Sd/-

**(Vishwas R. Satarkar)**  
State Chief Information Commissioner