

STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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

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Appeal No.323/2025/SCIC

Mr. Narendra Anant Walavalkar,
r/o. F/3/S, Rasdhara Co-op Housing
Society 385, S. V. P. Road,
Opp. Harikisandas Hospital Girgaon,
Mumbai 400004.

-----Appellant

V/s

1. The Public Information Officer,
Village Panchayat Secretary,
V. P. Tamboxem, Mopa, Ugavem,
Pernem Goa.

2. The First Appellate Authority,
Block Development Officer,
Block Development Office,
Pernem Goa.

-----Respondents

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

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	27/06/2025
PIO replied on	07/07/2025
First Appeal filed on	01/08/2025
First Appellate order on	25/08/2025
Second appeal received on	18/11/2025
First Hearing on	16/02/2026
Decided on	06/04/2026

Information sought and Background of the Appeal

- 1.** Shri. Narendra Anant Walavalkar filed an application dated 27/06/2025 before the PIO, Village Panchayat, Tamboxem seeking following information inrespect of House No. 271, Torxem which was in the name of Late Yashoda Shankar Samant :
- a) *"Kindly know presently the House No. 271 stands in whose name.*
 - b) *Kindly provide documents/information based on which House No. 271 is transferred.*
 - c) *Kindly know the House No. 271 is changed to new House Number.*
 - d) *Kindly know the status of House No. 271."*

- 2.** In response to the RTI application, PIO (Village Panchayat Tamboxem Mopa Ugavem) vide letter dated 07/07/2025 replied as under to all the four (a-d) RTI queries :

"As seen from the relevant record, the information is NIL"

- 3.** Being aggrieved by the reply received from the PIO, Appellant filed first appeal dated 01/08/2025 before the First Appellate Authority (BDO, Pernem Taluka) stating that the Respondent PIO has not furnished the information without any reasonable cause and prayed for necessary direction to the Respondent PIO to furnish sought information free of cost.

- 4.** First Appellate Authority (BDO, Pernem Taluka, Goa) vide order dated 25/08/2025 dismissed the first appeal of the Appellant on the ground that -

- i. Respondent PIO has addressed all the points in the RTI application dated 27/06/2025 and furnished information as "NIL".*
- ii. Respondent explained before the First Appellate Authority that the information sought is pertaining to House NO. 171 which does not exist as per Panchayat records.*

- 5.** Subsequently, Appellant preferred second appeal dated 18/11/2025 before the Commission stating that the Respondent PIO has not furnished the sought information and the First Appellate Authority has dismissed the first appeal.

Appellant prayed before the Commission that the Respondent PIO be directed to furnish information sought vide RTI application dated 27/06/2025, set aside and quash the order passed by the First Appellate Authority and impose penalty on Respondent PIO.

FACTS EMERGING IN THE COURSE OF HEARING

6. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 09/02/2026 but later postponed to 16/02/2026 with prior intimation to the parties.
7. Appellant and Respondent PIO present for hearing held on 16/02/2026. Respondent PIO filed written submission dated 16/02/2026 with an additional copy to the Appellant. Respondent PIO in his written submission stated that :
 - i) *Respondent PIO or his office is not in possession of the information sought by the Appellant. Hence replied to the Appellant that information sought is "NIL".*
 - ii) *Respondent PIO has not furnished the information because the information sought by the Appellant is not available in the records of his office.*
8. Both the parties placed their oral submission/arguments before the Presiding Commissioner. Respondent PIO submitted that the said House No. 271 is not existing in Tamboxem Panchayat or in its records.
9. Appellant on the other hand orally submitted that the said House No. 271 in Torxem Village Panchayat, Pernem Taluka of North Goa District was in the name of late Yashodha Shankar Samant and now Appellant is the legal heir of late Yashoda Shankar Samant. Appellant has produced two documents along with the present appeal -
 - i) *Copy of Receipt No. 75 dated 28/02/1987 for receiving Rs. 5/- as House Tax from Anant Shankar Walavalkar for part of House No. 05 issued by Village Panchayat Tamboxem Mopa Ugavem.*
 - ii) *Copy of Receipt No. 76 dated 28/02/1987 for receiving Rs. 03/- as Light Tax from Anant Shankar Walavalkar for part of House No. 05 issued by Village Panchayat Tamboxem Mopa Ugavem.*
 - iii) *A copy of certificate dated 31/05/1990 issued by the Secretary, Village Panchayat Torxem, Pernem Taluka stating that House No.*

271 belongs to Smt. Yashoda Shankar Samant was in the Assessment Register of Village Panchayat Torxem for the year 1965 to 1973. From 1973 onwards, the said house is existing in the Village Panchayat of Tamboxem Mopa Ugavem.

- 10.** Respondent PIO however categorically stated before the Presiding Commissioner that no house bearing House No. 271 is existing in Village Panchayat Tamboxem Mopa Ugavem and House No. 05 in the Village Panchayat Tamboxem Mopa Ugavem is in a different name and not of Anant Shankar Walavalkar.
- 11.** Matter fixed for further hearing on 06/04/2026 for which Appellant and Respondent PIO present. Respondent PIO reiterated that there is no house bearing No. 271 existing in the records or jurisdiction of Tamboxem Mopa Ugavem Panchayat of Pernem Taluka.

DECISION

- i. Since the Respondent produced copies of receipts of the House Tax (Rs. 05/- only) and Light Tax (Rs. 03/- only) dated 28/02/1987 issued by the Village Panchayat Tamboxem Mopa Ugavem in the name of Anant Shankar Walavalkar for part of House No. 5, Village Panchayat Tamboxem Mopa Ugavem and Respondent PIO submitted that the House No. 5 in Village Panchayat Tamboxem Mopa Ugavem stands in the name of somebody else, Commission hereby directed the Respondent PIO to furnish copies of particular pages of the Assessment Register of the Village Panchayat Tamboxem Mopa Ugavem in which the said House No. 5 is mentioned in the records available with the Village Panchayat.**
- ii. PIO (Secretary, Village Panchayat Tamboxem Mopa Ugavem) cannot create any records or information in order to furnish the Appellant but properly scrutinise the**

available records having the details or reference of the House No. 5 and furnish copies of the available records/pages of Register having the mentioning of the House No. 5 (irrespective of the name stands against the House No. 5) to the Appellant within 15 days of the date of order i.e. 06/04/2026 and file compliance report to the Commission within 10 days from the receipt of this order.

- Matter disposed.
- Proceeding stands closed.
- 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