

## **GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**

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### **Appeal No. 341/2025/SCIC**

Dnyaneshwar C. Khandeparkar,  
H. No. 155/A, Kassamshel, Codar,  
Ponda Goa.

----Appellant

V/s

1. The Public Information Officer/Secretary,  
Village Panchayat Bethoda,  
Nirankal-Conxem-Codar,  
Ponda Goa.

2. The First Appellate Authority,  
Block Development Authority-II,  
Ponda Goa.

----Respondents

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

### **Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal**

RTI application filed on	10/10/2025
PIO replied on	16/10/2025
First Appeal filed on	17/11/2025
First Appellate order on	29/12/2025
<b>Second appeal received on</b>	<b>31/12/2025</b>
<b>First hearing on</b>	<b>23/02/2026</b>
<b>Decided on</b>	<b>23/02/2026</b>

### **Information sought and background of the Appeal**

1. Shri. Dnyaneshwar C. Khandeparkar filed an application dated 10/10/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 to the PIO, Village Panchayat, Bethoda seeking following information for the period from 07/01/2023 to 11/03/2025 :
  - i) Certified copies of all cheques and vouchers issued by the Panchayat to the Sarpanch, Panchayat members, Secretary, Staff, labourers, daily wage workers, tea vendors, stationary suppliers, contractors etc.
  - ii) Copy of all resolutions passed by the Panchayat regarding pre-monsoon and post-monsoon works including the attendance records of members who were present and approved such resolutions.

- iii) Certified copies of cashbook entries, passbook and bank account statements of the payment for the above period to verify the actual disbursement mode.
2. In response to the RTI application, PIO/ Secretary, Village Panchayat, Bethoda vide letter dated 16/10/2025 replied to the Appellant to make payment of Rs. 7229/- being charge for photo copying 1295 copies of legal size documents (Rs. 3885 @ Rs. 3/- per page) and 1672 copies of A4 size documents (Rs. 3344 @ Rs. 2/- per page).
- PIO further mentioned in the letter that xerox copies will be ready within 20 days from the date of payment of fee and with regard to RTI query No. 02, PIO requested the Appellant to specify the name of the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon works in order to furnish the information at the earliest.
3. Accordingly, Appellant made payment of Rs. 7229/- vide Receipt No. 092 dated 16/10/2025 and Respondent PIO vide letter dated 05/11/2025 furnished information to the Appellant.
4. Subsequently, Appellant filed first appeal dated 17/11/2025 before the First Appellate Authority praying for direction to the Respondent PIO :
1. To furnish all sought information free of cost.
  2. To refund the amount of Rs. 7229/- received as fee for information.
  3. Initiate penal and disciplinary proceedings against the Respondent PIO.
  4. Direct Panchayat to maintain complete records as per Panchayat (Administration) Rules, 1996.
5. First Appellate Authority (BDO-II, Ponda) vide order dated 29/12/2025 directed the Respondent PIO to provide the information which is available on record pertaining to Point Nos. 01 and 03 for which Appellant has already paid an amount of Rs. 7229/-, within 10 days from the receipt of this order.

6. Being aggrieved by the order of the First Appellate Authority, Appellate preferred second appeal dated 31/12/2025 before the Commission praying that :
- i. Order dated 29/12/2025 of the First Appellate Authority be set aside and declare null and void.
  - ii. Direct the Respondent PIO to furnish all information, free of cost.
  - iii. Direct the PIO to refund Rs. 7229/- illegally collected from the Appellant.
  - iv. Initiate penal and disciplinary action against the Respondent PIO.
  - v. Order a special inquiry/audit into the financial records of the Village Panchayat of Bethoda for the period from 01/12/2023 to 11/09/2025.

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

7. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 23/02/2026 for which Appellant and Respondent PIO present.

8. During the hearing, Respondent PIO orally submitted that on receipt of the Appellant's RTI application dated 10/10/2025, his office has gathered information containing 2967 pages of documents costing Rs. 7229/- being photocopying charges and accordingly intimated the Appellant to pay the fee of Rs. 7229/- to obtain information within 20 days of payment.

Subsequently vide letter dated 05/11/2025 intimated the Appellant to collect information pertaining to Point No. 01 and 03. In the said letter, PIO has specifically informed the Appellant that copies of cheques are not available on records and information pertaining to Point No. 02 could not furnish as Appellant failed to specify the requirements despite asking to furnish.

9. Appellant orally submitted that he has not collected the information because it did not contain copies of cheques issued by the Panchayat for the period from 01/12/2023 to 11/09/2025.

Commission at this juncture ruled out the possibility of Panchayat keeping photocopies of cheques issued as part of discharging its duties

and functioning. But the same should have been informed by the Respondent PIO to the Appellant in the initial letter dated 16/10/2025 requesting the Appellant to make payment of Rs. 7229/-.

10. Presiding Commissioner informed the Appellant that since the Respondent PIO kept the sought voluminous information ready within the stipulated 30 days time limit from the date of receipt of the application dated 10/10/2025 and duly intimated the Appellant vide letter dated 05/11/2025, there is no ground for not collecting the information for which Appellant paid Rs. 7229/- and then approaching the first and second appellate authorities praying for return of the amount paid to furnish information free of cost.

### **DECISION**

Commission decided to dispose the appeal with the following directions to the Respondent PIO :

- i) **Since the Appellant failed to specify pre monsoon and post monsoon works carried out by the Village Panchayat, Bethoda for the period from 01/12/2023 to 11/03/2025, furnish certified copies of all resolutions (with list of attendees) passed by the Village Panchayat regarding all works carried out by the Village Panchayat, Bethoda for the period from 01/12/2023 to 11/09/2025, free of cost, within 15 days from receipt of this order.**
- ii) **As the Appellant already paid an amount of Rs. 7229/- being the fee for the photocopies the information of 2967 pages, furnish same information too to the Appellant along with the information pertaining to RTI query No. 02 of the application dated 10/10/2025 (copy of resolution).**

**Appellant's failure to collect sought information, after making payment, on the ground of the absence of cheque copies, cannot be considered as fault of the Respondent PIO.**

- Matter disposed.
- Proceedings stand 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