

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
“Kamat Towers” 7th Floor, Patto Plaza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001
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Appeal No. 217/2025/SCIC

Nazario Savio Paul D’Souza,
 550/A/S2, Cortez Apartments,
 Ubo Dando, St. Cruz,
 Tiswadi-Goa 403005.

----Appellant

V/s

The Secretary/Public Information Officer,
 Village Panchayat Santa Cruz,
 Santa Cruz, Tiswadi-Goa 403005.

-----Respondent

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

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	02/05/2025
PIO replied on	28/05/2025
First Appeal filed on	09/06/2025
First Appellate order on	08/07/2025
Second appeal received on	17/09/2025
First hearing held on	28/10/2025
Decided on	04/12/2025

Information sought and background of the Appeal

1. Shri Nazario Savio Paul D’Souza filed an application dated 02/05/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 to the PIO, Village Panchayat St. Cruz seeking information at 10 points with regards to the Panchayat body meeting, VDC meeting, Village Waste Management meetings, ordinary gram sabha meeting held on 16th March 2025, all proposals received prior to the said ordinary gram sabha meeting, expenditure on construction/repair/cleaning of wall, cattle pound and correspondence between the V.P St. Cruz and GCZMA on Khazan land status with reference to High Court Writ Petition No.31 of 2014.

2. In response to the RTI application, PIO, V.P. St. Cruz vide letter dated 28/05/2025 replied to the Appellant as under :

<i>"Point No.1</i>	<i>Copy enclosed (170 pages)</i>
<i>Point No.2</i>	<i>Copy enclosed (03 pages)</i>
<i>Point No.3</i>	<i>As per Village Panchayat record, no meeting held from January 2024 to April 2025.</i>
<i>Point No.4</i>	<i>Copy enclosed (01 pages)</i>
<i>Point No.5</i>	<i>Copy enclosed (20 pages)</i>
<i>Point No.6</i>	<i>Copy enclosed (13 pages)</i>
<i>Point No.7</i>	<i>As per Village Panchayat record, the information is not available.</i>
<i>Point No.8</i>	<i>As per Village Panchayat record, the information is not available.</i>
<i>Point No.9</i>	<i>Copies enclosed (02 copies)</i>
<i>Point No.10</i>	<i>Copies enclosed (05 copies)"</i>

3. Being not satisfied with the information furnished by the PIO, Appellant filed first appeal dated 09/06/2025 before the First Appellate Authority stating that the reply of "*As per Village Panchayat records, information is not available*" to Point No.7 & 8 of his RTI application is not acceptable, as the previous audit report shows that an amount has been spent for construction of a cattle pound and a fixed amount has been paid annually to the pound keeper. With reference to Point No.10 of the RTI application, PIO has not furnished all replies received from the concerned authorities.

4. FAA (Block Development Officer, Tiswadi) passed an Order dated 08/07/2025 as under:

" Since the Respondent PIO has not furnished correct and complete information the Appeal is allowed. PIO/V.P Secretary of St. Cruz is hereby directed to provide the complete and correct information to the Appellant as sought in his application dated 02/05/2025 within 15 days".

5. Subsequently, Appellant preferred Second appeal dated 17/09/2025 before the Commission stating that with reference to Point No. 7 & 8 of his RTI application, Respondent PIO has replied that "As per V.P records, the information sought is not available" and with

reference to Point No.10, Respondent PIO has not furnished all replies received from the concerned authorities.

Appellant prayed before the Commission that Respondent PIO be directed to furnish specific information sought at Point No. 7 & 8 and all correspondence received from various authorities in respect of Point No.10 of the RTI application.

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 28/10/2025 for which Appellant present and none present for the Respondent PIO. However, Registry received an e-mail dated 27/10/2025 from Respondent PIO (Village Panchayat Secretary, St. Cruz) conveying his inability to attend the hearing 28/10/2025 due to some urgent and unavoidable office work. Matter posted to 17/11/2025.
7. When matter took up for hearing on 17/11/2025, Appellant and Respondent present. Presiding Commissioner directed the Respondent PIO to file fresh reply to the three points (Point No. 7, 8 & 10) of the RTI application as cited by the Appellant. Presiding Commissioner further directed the Respondent PIO to certify the copies of documents already furnished to the Appellant by the Respondent PIO. Matter posted to 04/12/2025 for further hearing.
8. Matter took up for further hearing on 04/12/2025 for which Appellant and Respondent PIO present in person. Appellant and Respondent PIO placed their arguments pertaining to Point No.7, 8, 9 and 10 of the RTI application dated 02/05/2025 of the Appellant.

DECISION

After considering the arguments of both the parties, Commission decided to dispose the present appeal by issuing following directions to the Respondent PIO :

- (i) Furnish details of the budget expenditure pertaining to cleaning of wells only for the year 2024-2025, as there was no expenditure on the well constructions and well repairs
- (ii) Since the Respondent PIO submitted before the Commission that no amount has been spent for construction and maintenance of cattle pound, the Respondent PIO is directed to give in writing to that effect.
- (iii) Furnish the records/correspondence/communication made from the Village Panchayat of Santa Cruz to GCZMA and vice versa with regards to the clarification on the Khazan land zone change with reference to High Court P.I.L Writ Petition No. 31 of 2024.

As the Respondent PIO was directed to provide the aforesaid information at 3.00 p.m. on 05/12/2025, file compliance report to the Commission within 15 days from the receipt of this order.

- 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

