

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
"Kamat Towers" 7th Floor, Patto Plaza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001
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Appeal No. 23/2025/SCIC

Mr. Rajkumar Raju Gadge,
Office No. 301,302 & 306,
3rd Floor, Commerce Centre Bldg,
Opp. Old Mapusa Municipal Bldg,
Mapusa Goa 403507.
V/s

-----Appellant

- 1.The Public Information Officer,
Office of the Sub-Registrar of Bardez,
Mapusa, Bardez-Goa.
- 2.First Appellate Authority,
District Registrar, North Goa,
Junta House, Panaji-Goa.

-----Respondents

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

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	- 07/06/2024
PIO replied on	- 02/07/2024
First Appeal filed on	- 29/07/2024
First Appellate order on	- 27/08/2024
Second appeal received on	- 17/01/2025
Decision of the Second Appeal on	- 23/07/2025

Information sought and background of the Appeal

1. Shri. Rajkumar Raju Gadge filed an application dated 07/06/2024 under RTI Act, 2005 to the PIO, O/o the Sub Registrar, Bardez seeking following information :
- i. *"The time limit provided under law/rule etc. for approval of document like Deed of Sale and or Agreement of Sale from the date of submission of documents online.*
- ii. *The time limit provided under law/rule etc. for handing over the documents,which were successfully executed and completed, to be handed over to the executing parties.*
- Kindly provide me this information in the form of documentary evidence."*

2. In response to this RTI application, PIO/Joint Civil Registrar cum Sub Registrar, Bardez-II vide letter dated 02/07/2024 replied that *"the sought information is not available in the records of this office. It is to inform you that kindly provide particulars such as Registration Number, Serial Number, date of Registration, etc. so as to enable this office to provide the required information."*

Alternatively, you may visit this office on any working day during office hours and inspect the available records on payment of prescribed fees. Upon identifying the desired information, kindly intimate this office about the relevant information identified by you."

3. Being aggrieved by the reply/information furnished by the PIO (Ms. Firdous Saba Bepari), Appellant filed first appeal dated 29/07/2024, before the First Appellate Authority (District Registrar, North Goa requesting to direct the Respondent PIO to provide clear and specific information sought vide RTI application dated 07/06/2024.
4. FAA (District Registrar, North Goa) vide order dated 27/08/2024 disposed off the First Appeal as Respondent PIO agreed to allow the Appellant to inspect the Day Book and to verify the Deeds for the year from 2022 till date.
5. Perusal of documents filed along with the present appeal by the Appellant contains a letter dated 08/11/2024 (inwarded at the office of the PIO on 12/11/2024) addressed by the Appellant to the Respondent PIO intimating that Appellant is yet to receive the information inspite of the order passed by the FAA on 27/08/2024 directing the PIO to provide copies of the Circular or Notification regarding approval and handing over of documents.
6. Subsequently, Appellant filed Second Appeal dated 17/01/2025 before the Commission stating that Respondent PIO has not furnished information and also failed to comply with the order passed by the FAA.

Appellant prayed for direction to the Respondent PIO to provide the information sought in the RTI application dated 07/06/2024.

Facts Emerging in Course of Observation

7. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal by the Appellant, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 07/04/2025. The appellant was absent. The then Respondent PIO, Ms. Firdous Saba Bepari was present. Matter was adjourned to 06/05/2025.
8. When the matter called out for hearing, Present PIO Shri Piedade Gomes and Appellant appeared in person. Respondent No.1 (PIO) filed written reply dated 05/05/2025 to the appeal memo stating that :
 - i. On receipt of the RTI application, Respondent PIO replied vide letter dated 02/07/2024.*
 - ii. FAA vide Order dated 27/08/2024 allowed the inspection of the day book and to obtain desired information after the inspection.*
 - iii. Information sought at Point No.3 of the RTI application is vague and ambiguous in nature.*
9. In the subsequent hearing held on 09/06/2025, Appellant and the Present PIO (Respondent No.1) Shri. Piedade Dias appeared in person. Presiding Commissioner, based on the FAA's order dated 27/08/2024, directed the Respondent PIO to allow inspection of the file/records by the Appellant on a mutually convenient day.

Accordingly, PIO suggested the Appellant to visit the office of the PIO on any working day during office hours between 16/06/2025 and 20/06/2025 to inspect the available office records as directed by the Hon'ble Presiding Commissioner. Appellant agreed to inspect the records in any of the above said dates with prior intimation to the PIO. Matter adjourned to 14/07/2025. Appellant remained absent for the hearing held on 30/06/2025 but PIO present. Matter adjourned to 14/07/2025.
10. When the matter called out for hearing on 14/07/2025, PIO Shri. Piedade Dias appeared in person but none present for Appellant. Respondent PIO in his written submission dated 14/07/2025 stated that

despite fixing the date for inspection of records/files by the Appellant as per the direction of the Hon'ble Commission, Appellant did not visit the office of the PIO till date.

11. Matter fixed for final hearing on 23/07/2025 for which the presence of Sub Registrar of Bardez also directed by the Presiding Commissioner. Specific direction was given to the PIO by the Presiding Commissioner to submit a precise reply with regard to the information sought by the Appellant vide RTI application dated 07/06/2024.
12. Complying with the direction given by the Presiding Commissioner, Respondent PIO filed a fresh reply dated 23/07/2025 to the RTI application which stated that notification is enclosed in respect of Point No.1 in the RTI application and with regard to Point No. 2, PIO replied that no specific rule is existing for the time limit for handing over the documents after successful execution **(copy of the submission dated 23/07/2025 shall be enclosed with the order for the Appellant).**
13. Since Joint Registrar Cum Sub Registrar-I Bardez, Shri Risheek Naik was present for the hearing on 23/07/2025, Presiding Commissioner sought clarification from him with regard to the Appellant's 2-point query viz.
 - i. Time limit provided under Law for approval of documents like Deed of Sale or Agreement of Sale from the date of submission of documents on line.
 - ii. Time limit provided for handing over the documents to the executing parties after completion of the process.
14. Joint Registrar Cum Sub Registrar-I submitted that with regard to Query No.1, the time limit is seven days and with regard to Query No. 2, the average time limit to hand over the documents to the executing parties, after registration of the document is 3 days and the maximum time limit is two weeks.

COMMISSION'S OBSERVATION

- i. Despite giving clear instruction to conduct an inspection of records on any convenient date between 16/06/2025 and 20/06/2025, which is fixed by the Appellant himself and agreeing to do so, Appellant didn't turn up for the inspection of documents in the office of the PIO.
- ii. The 2-point query of the Appellant is clear and specific but the previous PIO, Ms. Firdous Saba Bepari was found confused and invited the Appellant to provide specific particulars to furnish information.
- iii. Previous PIO has utterly failed to apply mind to read the 2-point RTI application and the confusion over the RTI application is created by previous PIO herself by adopting a very casual and irresponsible approach towards the RTI application.
- iv. PIO is directed to go through the RTI applications received by him properly and furnish the information/reply appropriately instead of replying in a mechanical manner.

DECISION

With the proper clarification submitted before the Commission by the Joint Registrar Cum Sub Registrar –I, Bardez with regard to the 2-Point queries raised by the Appellant in his RTI application dated 07/06/2024, Commission disposed off the present Appeal No.23/2025/SCIC.

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.

- Proceeding stands closed.
- Pronounced in open Court.
- Notify the parties.

Sd/-

(ARAVIND KUMAR H. NAIR)
State Chief Information Commissioner, GSIC

