

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
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Appeal No. 251/2025/SCIC

Mr. Tomaturgo Andrade,
H.No.307, Ambajim, Fatorda,
Margao-Goa 403705. -----Appellant
V/s

1.State Public Information Officer,
The Executive Engineer,
Elect. Divn. IV (O&M),
Electricity Department,
Margao-Goa.
2.First Appellate Authority,
The Superintending Engineer Circle-I(S),
Electricity Department,
Vidyut Bhavan, Aquem Margao-Goa 403601. -----Respondents

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

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	26/06/2025
PIO replied on	23/07/2025
First Appeal filed on	01/08/2025
First Appellate order on	08/08/2025
Second appeal received on	16/10/2025
First hearing held on	12/11/2025
Decided on	26/11/2025

Information sought and background of the Appeal

1. Shri. Tomaturgo Andrade filed an application dated 26/06/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 seeking '*copies of all applications along with all supporting documents upon which electricity connection bearing Installation No. 5000230260 with energisation date 11/02/1994 was granted*'.
2. In response to the RTI application dated 26/06/2025, PIO (Executive Engineer, Electricity Division IV (O&M), Electricity Department, Margao-Goa) vide letter dated 23/07/2025 replied to the Appellant as under :

"With reference to your application, this is to inform you that the documents sought by you are not available on record as the Assistant Engineer concerned has reported that the relevant file is not traceable".

3. Being aggrieved by the reply received from the PIO, Appellant filed first appeal dated 01/08/2025 before the First Appellate Authority stating that the PIO's reply is not being clear as to if the information existed or not nor any details of FIR filed for missing public records being provided.
4. FAA (SE-I(S), Margao) on hearing both parties vide order dated 08/08/2025 directed the Respondent PIO to search the relevant files and submit the information within 15 days if available.
5. Subsequently, Appellant filed Second appeal dated 16/10/2025 before the Commission stating that inspite of FAA's order 08/08/2025, no information was provided by the Respondent PIO.

Appellant prayed for direction to the Respondent PIO to furnish information sought under RTI application and impose maximum penalty upon the Respondent PIO for refusal to furnish information. Otherwise Respondent PIO be directed to file an Affidavit of no information as sought is maintained at the office of the PIO and file an FIR if the information sought is misplaced and be directed to reconstruct the information and provide the same to the Appellant.

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

6. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 26/11/2025 for which Adv. Sangeeta Kaur appeared for Appellant and Respondent PIO (E.E) appeared along with A.E. Respondent PIO submitted before the Presiding Commissioner that the information sought by the Appellant is above 20 years old and despite conducting a thorough search, the said file could not be traced.

7. Presiding Commissioner directed the Respondent PIO to file an Affidavit to that effect on the next date of hearing slated for 26/11/2025.

8. When matter called out for further hearing on 26/11/2025, Appellant present and Adv. Joshua Gracias present for Appellant.

Complying with the oral direction given by the Presiding Commissioner on 12/11/2025, Respondent PIO filed an 'Affidavit' dated 18/11/2025 stating that –

- (a) The electricity connection bearing installation No. 5000230260 was energized on 11/02/1994 as per office records
- (b) Necessary steps were taken by the Custodian (A.P.I.O) of the office of Asstt. Engineer (Com), Sub Div-II, Fatorda, Margao to locate the file pertaining to the RTI application
- (c) As per the directions of the FAA, A.P.I.O made further rigorous efforts to locate the file pertaining to the electricity connection number 5000230260 mentioned by the appellant in his RTI application but the concerned file/documents could not be traced.

Copy of the Affidavit dated 18/11/2025 served to the Appellant's Advocate, who duly acknowledged the receipt of the Affidavit.

DECISION

I. DIRECTIONS TO THE RESPONDENT PIO, (RESPONDENT NO. 1)

- i. Commission disposed the matter with the direction to the Respondent PIO to file police complaint, within 10 days from the receipt of this order, to register an FIR on the missing of the file pertaining to the electricity connection No. 5000230260 energised on 11/02/1994.
- ii. Copy of the police complaint should be furnished to the Appellant and the Commission, immediately after lodging police complaint. Once the concerned police station registered an FIR after lodging police complaint, copy of the

FIR should be provided to the Appellant by the Respondent PIO with compliance report to the Commission.

- iii. Since the lodging of police complaint and subsequent registration of FIR is not a solution to the missing of documents, there is an urgent need to revisit the record management system to ascertain whether all offices of the public authority in the present appeal (Goa Electricity Department) have proper Record Management System.*

II. DIRECTIONS TO THE HEAD/CHIEF ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT, PANAJI

- iv. Hence the Commission hereby directed the Head/Chief Engineer of Goa Electricity Department to conduct an audit on the existing Record Management System and to ensure that all offices under your authority/Jurisdiction are having proper Record Management system.
- v. Head of Goa Electricity Department is directed to carry out the record audit within 45 days from the receipt of this order and file compliance report within 15 days from the completion of the audit.

With the above directions, matter disposed and 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

