

## GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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

E-mail: spio-gsic.goa@nic.in Website: [www.scic.goa.gov.in](http://www.scic.goa.gov.in)

### Appeal No.309/2025/SCIC

Pandurang Parab,  
H.No.61, Shapora,  
Anjuna, Bardez-Goa 403509.

----Appellant

V/s

1.The Public Information Officer,  
Deputy Conservator of Forests,  
North Goa Division, Ponda-Goa.

2.The First Appellate Authority,  
Conservator of Forests,  
Van Bhavan, Altinho, Panaji-Goa.

-----Respondents

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

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

RTI application filed on	14/05/2025
PIO replied on	17/10/2025
First Appeal filed on	03/11/2025
First Appellate order on	12/11/2025
<b>Second appeal received on</b>	<b>04/12/2025</b>
<b>First hearing</b>	<b>29/01/2026</b>
<b>Decided on</b>	<b>29/01/2026</b>

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

1. Shri. Pandurang Parab filed an application dated 11/09/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 to the Dy. Conservator of Forests (Headquarters), Van Bhavan, Panaji seeking following information in connection with his complaint dated 14/05/2025 to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, letter dated 03/06/2025 of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, (Headquarters), Panaji to the Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division, Ponda and Appellant's letter dated 01/08/2025 to the Deputy Conservator of Forests(Headquarters), Panaji.

- (1) *"Copy of the enquiry report submitted by the Act, Ponda as per your letter dated 03/06/2025.*
- (2) *Copy of the Action Taken at the end of the enquiry conducted by the Act, Ponda over my complaint dated 14/05/2025".*

2. Subsequently, PIO/Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division, Ponda, Goa vide letter dated 17/10/2025 replied/furnished information to the Appellant as under for to the 02 point RTI application -  
*"The inquiry is in progress and the report is not yet been considered for actions as on date as per this office records. Therefore the information cannot be provided at this stage".*
3. Thereafter Appellant filed first appeal dated 03/11/2025 before the First Appellate Authority (Conservator of Forests, Altinho, Panaji)
4. After hearing parties to the first appeal on 12/11/2025, FAA (Conservator of Forests/Conservation) vide order dated 12/11/2025 directed the Respondent PIO *"to reply to the RTI application within 07 days by providing factual status of the inquiry alongwith provisions of RTI governing disclosure of such information, all document/information to be given free of cost"*.
5. Complying with the order passed by the FAA, PIO/Deputy Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division, Ponda vide letter dated 18/11/2025 replied to the Appellant as under :  
*"The inquiry is in progress and the report is not yet been considered for actions as on date, as per this office record. Since the information pertains to an inquiry which may have implications on disciplinary proceedings; such confidential information is exempted from disclosure under Section 8(1) (j) of the RTI Act, 2005"*.
6. Subsequently, Appellant preferred Second Appeal dated 04/12/2025 before the Commission praying for directions to the Respondent PIO to furnish sought information and to impose penalty on Respondent PIO u/s. 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005.

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

7. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 29/01/2026 for which Appellant and

Respondent PIO (Deputy Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division, Ponda), was represented by Assistant Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division, Ponda (Shri. Vishwas K. Chodankar with authority letter). During the course of proceedings, Respondent PIO's authorized representative orally submitted before the Presiding Commissioner that:

- (i) He is the Inquiry Officer in respect of the complaint dated 14/05/2025 filed to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Altinho, Panaji by the Appellant.
- (ii) Inquiry has been carried out in July, 2025.
- (iii) Inquiry report has been submitted to the Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division, Ponda on 04/12/2025.
- (iv) Dy. Conservator of Forests, Ponda has forwarded the said report to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Headquarters, Panaji on 09/12/2025.
- (v) Deputy Conservator of Forests, Panaji will submit the report to his superiors for necessary action.

8. During the first hearing held on 29/01/2026, Assistant Conservator of Forests submitted that as sought by the Appellant, his statement recorded on 16/07/2025 by the Inquiry Officer in the Appellant's complaint dated 14/05/2025 was dispatched vide letter dated 12/09/2025 by Registered post but it was not collected by the Appellant, who orally submitted before the Presiding Commissioner that the PIO has quoted wrong reference.

On the oral direction of the Presiding Commissioner, Appellant collected certified copy of 03-page statement recorded by the Inquiry Officer (Assistant Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division, Ponda) in connection with the Appellant's complaint dated 14/05/2025 from the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ponda before the Presiding Commissioner.

**DECISION**

After considering the facts and circumstances of the present appeal and the oral arguments/submissions placed before the Commission by the Appellant and the authorized representative of the Respondent PIO, Commission decided to dispose the matter with the following directions:

**i. Respondent PIO (Deputy Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division, Ponda)**

**Furnish certified copy of the inquiry report into the Appellant's complaint dated 14/05/2025 addressed to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to the Appellant within 15 days from the receipt of this order.**

**File compliance report within 21 days to the Commission.**

**ii. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests**

**Since the complaint dated 14/05/2025 is addressed to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, you are hereby directed to convey (in writing to the Appellant, within one month from the date of receipt of this order) about the action taken on his complaint.**

**File compliance report within 40 days to the Commission.**

- 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

