

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
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Appeal No. 14/2025/SIC

Shri. Vinayak S. Methar,
H.No. 6, Madhalawada,
Arambol, Pernem-Goa.

..... **Appellant**

V/s

1.The Public Information Officer.
The Secretary of Arambol Village Panchayat,
Arambol, Pernem-Goa.

2. The First Appellate Authority,
The Block Development Officer Pernem Taluka,
Pernem-Goa.

.....**Respondents**

Shri. Atmaram R. Barve

State Information Commissioner

Filed on: 10/01/2025
Disposed on: 16/12/2025

ORDER

1. The present second appeal arises out of Right to Information (RTI) application dated 17/08/2024 made by Shri. Vinayak S. Methar, Appellant herein and addressed to the Public Information officer (PIO) at Village Panchayat Arambol, Pernem Taluka.
2. The said application was sent by the Appellant herein through Registered A/D and the same was acknowledged by the PIO on 19/08/2024.
3. Thereafter citing the grounds that neither inspection of documents nor certified copies of documents by the PIO within the stipulated time period of 30 days, the Appellant

herein preferred first appeal vide appeal memo dated 03/10/2024.

4. The First Appellate Authority (FAA) vide judgement/order dated 12/11/2024 directed the PIO to facilitate inspection of records in favour of the Appellant and furnish the information identified by the Appellant free of cost alongwith pointwise reply to his RTI application within 20 days from the said order.
5. Thereafter citing the grounds of denial of information and that of non-compliance of the directions of the FAA on the part of the PIO, the Appellant herein preferred second appeal vide appeal memo dated 10/01/2025 before this Commission.
6. Thereafter notices were issued, and matter came up to be heard from 09/04/2025 onwards.
7. Thereafter, advocate for the PIO filed his reply in the form of written submission on 18/09/2025 and the Appellant filed his written submission through Adv. A. Bacal on 29/10/2025.
8. The matter was argued by both the parties on the present day and upon hearing both the parties as well as upon perusal of the appeal memo as well as the written submissions of both the parties, this Commission is of considered opinion as under:-
 - a. The conduct of the PIO, Shri. Subhas Kambli in present instance appears to be against the letter and spirit of the RTI Act.
 - b. The said PIO has grossly failed to discharge his duty by way of not issuing any response within initial stipulated time period of 30 days and thereafter by way of non-compliance of the directions of the FAA.

- c. It is noteworthy that the PIO does not deem it appropriate to provide any documentary evidence in form of annexures or exhibits that could even remotely establish the aspect of good faith and that of the desire or efforts of the said PIO towards discharging his duty in first place or complying with the directions of the FAA as the case may be.
 - d. The written submissions on the part of the PIO do not address the core issue of the present second appeal and rather try to trivialise the entire matter by raising points such as objection to the Appellant present being alongwith lawyer, which in opinion of this Commission cannot be accepted.
 - e. Through the initial inaction and the subsequent action, the PIO Shri. Subhas Kambli is found to have caused denial of the information to the information seeker.
9. Therefore, the present second appeal is disposed off with following orders:-
- a. The present second appeal is upheld.
 - b. The PIO, Shri. Subhas Kambli is hereby directed to provide a comprehensive inspection of the relevant records interms of the Appellant's RTI application dated 17/08/2024 and also provide certified true copies free of cost to the Appellant in so far as the relevant information is concerned. The PIO shall conduct this exercise on 15/01/2026 during working hours and shall record the minutes of the proceeding in detail and upon the completion of the exercise inscribe his signature and also seek the signature of the Appellant herein or his duly authorized representative in acknowledgement of the same.

- c. The Block Development Officer i.e. FAA is also directed to supervise this exercise either by remaining present in person or through his duly authorized representative on designated date spelt out above.
- d. Registry to issue showcause notice to the PIO, Shri. Subhas Kambli seeking his response as to why no action shall be initiated against him under Section 20(1) and 20(2) of the RTI Act and also the said PIO shall remain present before this Commission in person alongwith reply to the showcause notice and also submit minutes of the proceedings referred above on **22/01/2026 at 11.00 am**; failing which necessary penalty and disciplinary action shall be initiated against the same.
- No order as to cost.
 - Parties to be provided authenticated copies of the order.
 - 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/-

(ATMARAM R. BARVE)

State Information Commissioner