

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
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Appeal No. 146/2024/SIC

Shri. Devidas G. Panjekar,
r/o. Podwal, Khorjuem,
Aldona, Bardez-Goa.
403 508.

.....Appellant

V/S

The Public Information Officer,
Village Panchayat of Aldona,
Aldona, Bardez-Goa.

.....Respondent

Shri. Atmaram R. Barve

State Information Commissioner

Filed on: 20/05/2024

Decided on: 26/06/2025

ORDER

1. The present second appeal arises out of the Right to Information (RTI) application dated 20/03/2024 made by Appellant herein Shri. Devidas G. Panjekar and addressed to the Public Information Officer (PIO), at Village Panchayat Aldona in Bardez Taluka.
2. The concerned PIO failed to provide any response to the said RTI application within stipulated time period and as such the Appellant herein had to prefer first appeal dated 08/05/2024.
3. Vide order dated 24/05/2024, the First Appellate Authority (FAA) directed the PIO to provide information to the Appellant within 10 days from the receipt of the said order.
4. Citing the grounds that only part information has been provided and that the order of the FAA has not been honoured

by the PIO, the Appellant herein preferred second appeal dated 11/07/2024.

5. Notices were served and the matter was taken up from 30/12/2024 onwards.
6. On the first date of hearing, the PIO was represented by an advocate but no wakalatanama was filed and the PIO was directed to file reply on or before 24/01/2025.
7. On 24/01/2025, the Adv. Shri. A. D'Souza sought further time to file reply in the form of written submission.
8. Till date neither the PIO nor his advocate have made any appearance or have filed any response in the said matter.
9. This Commission has taken cognizance of a common action on the part of the PIO's wherein while issuing responses to the RTI applications they do not mention their names and rather only put their signature.
10. Further, it is also observed that even the Appellants do not bother to mention specific name of the PIOs thereby making it difficult to ascertain the exact person who was responsible at the time of arising of cause of action.
11. It is also observed that the FAAs also do not specify the names of Respondent PIOs in their Orders or Roznama proceedings.
12. In the instant matter, the concerned PIO has shown complete disregard towards the proceeding before this Commission.
13. However, it is also pertinent that determining the precise name of the concerned officer has not been possible due to

the fact that firstly the Appellant is unaware of the same and secondly neither the PIO has bothered to remain present in person nor the advocate has bothered to furnish any wakalatnama.

14. It is pertinent to note that, the notices issued by this Commission necessarily carry a footnote mandating the present PIO to mention the name and present place of posting of relevant PIO and the present PIO of the Village Panchayat Aldona has grossly failed to respond to the said notice.

15. Therefore, in the light of the above facts, the present second appeal is disposed with following orders:-

- a. The present second appeal is allowed.
- b. The present PIO of Village Panchayat Aldona is directed to provide physical inspection of concerned documents pertaining to his RTI application dated 20/03/2024 on 24/07/2025 and also provide certified copies of all documents on same day and duly minute the proceeding of the said exercise and submit compliance report of the same by remaining present before this Commission on **30/07/2025 at 11.00 am.****
- c. Registry to issue show cause notice to the PIO seeking clarification as to why no action shall be initiated under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act for non-compliance of the order of this Commission.
- d. The Director, Directorate of Panchayats, Government of Goa is hereby directed to issue directions to PIO at all Village Panchayat to compulsorily mention their name while issuing responses under RTI Act and also to display their

name on their desk as well as notice board so that the public at large is aware of the name of the said PIO.

- No order as to cost.
- Parties to be provided authenticated copies of this 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