

**GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**  
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**Appeal No. 192/2025/SIC**

Mahendra Vaigankar,  
H.No. 54, Chinchwada,  
Chimbel, Tiswadi-Goa 403006.

**..... Appellant**

V/s

1.Ladu Gaonkar,  
Asst. Director of Transport (HQ/PIO),  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Junta House,  
Panaji-Goa.

2.First Appellate Authority (FAA),  
Directorate of Transport,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Junta House,  
Panaji-Goa.

**.....Respondents**

**Shri. Atmaram R. Barve**

State Information Commissioner

**Filed on: 05/09/2025**  
**Disposed on: 04/11/2025**

**ORDER**

1. Matter heard, Appellant, Mahendra Vaigankar had made application dated 02/06/2025 under Right to Information (RTI) Act addressed to the Public Information Officer (PIO) at Directorate of Transport, Junta House, Panaji-Goa.
2. In response to the said application, the PIO, Shri. Ladu Gaonkar responded to the Appellant herein asking him to visit the office of the PIO on 23/06/2025 requiring clarification in view of the said RTI application.
3. The Appellant herein vide email reiterated the context of his RTI application and thereafter preferred first appeal before the competent authority at Directorate of Transport vide appeal memo dated 10/07/2025

4. Thereafter citing the grounds of non-disposal of the first appeal and that of denial of information, the Appellant preferred second appeal before this Commission vide appeal memo dated 05/09/2025.
5. Notices were sent and matter came up to be heard from this day onward.
6. Upon perusal of appeal memo as well as the statements of the PIO as well as the First Appellate Authority (FAA), Shri. Bhalchandra Sawant, it is evident that this is a prefect case of non-application of mind in terms of disposal of the RTI application.
7. Although it is contended by the PIO that, the information sought is vague in nature, at the same time there is an act of gross oversight in so far as his cat of not referring said RTI application to another public authority namely, Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTCL) is concerned.
8. It is contended by the FAA that, the first appeal could not be heard as the same was not listed before the appropriate officers among the three FAA designated under Department of Transport, Government of Goa.
9. Upon perusal of appeal memo as well as the contentions of the PIO ad FAA, this Commission is of considered opinion as under:-
  - a. The stand taken by the PIO in the instant matter is inconsistence on grounds as under:-
    - i. The contents of the RTI application reveal that the information sought was pertaining to KTCL and as such the PIO of Transport department ought to have

necessarily transferred the said application under Section 6(3) of the RTI Act to the PIO of the said Corporation.

ii. If the PIO was of the opinion that the information sought is vague then he should have outrightly rejected the said application and should have not invited the Appellant for any inspection.

b. Although it is not disputed that Appellant ought to have been specific and precise with contents of his RTI application, the PIO's however, have to be vigilant about their responsibility entrusted upon by the virtue of RTI Act, 2005.

10. Therefore, in view of the above, the present second appeal is disposed off with following orders:-

a. The present second appeal is upheld.

b. The PIO, Shri. Ladu Gaonkar is directed to forthwith transfer the RTI application filed by the Appellant Mahendra Vaigankar to the PIO at Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited on or before 06/11/2025 by way of Registered A/D and submit compliance report to that effect on or before 10/11/2025.

c. The PIO at KTCL also be served with copy of this order with directions to access and respond to Appellant's RTI application and provide appropriate information by inviting the Appellant for inspection on 28/11/2025 and furnish necessary copies of information available free of cost on same day and record the minutes of proceeding therein to

avoid any ambiguity in so far as compliance of directions of this Commission are concerned.

- d. Registry to issue show cause notice separately to the PIO, Shri. Ladu Gaonkar, Department of Transport as well as the relevant PIO of KTCL seeking their clarification as to why action should not be initiated against them for non-compliance of the above mentioned directions in term so Section 20(1) and 20(2) of the RTI Act, 2005. Both the PIO shall remain present in person on 09/12/2025 at 11.00 am alongwith reply to show cause notice and compliance report; failing which necessary penalty and disciplinary proceeding shall be initiated against them.
- e. The Director, Department of Transport is directed to issue clear directions to the PIO as well as the FAA constituted in Directorate of Transport in so far as timely disposal of the RTI applications as well as the first appeals in keeping with letter and spirit of the RTI Act, 2005. The Director, Department of Transport is also directed to submit compliance report either in person or through authorised representative on 09/12/2025 accordingly.
- f. 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