

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

'Kamat Towers', Seventh Floor, Patto, Panaji –Goa
Tel No. 0832-2437880/2437208 email: spio-gsic.goa@nic.in
website: www.gsic.goa.gov.in

Shri. Atmaram R. Barve State Information Commissioner

Appeal No. 52/2025/SIC

Ashutosh A. K. Bawa,
Flat No. 6/22, 3rd Floor, Municipal Building,
St. Inez, Panaji-Goa, 403001 ...Appellant

V/s
Public Information Officer (PIO),
Paulo Rodrigues, Corporation of the City of Panaji,
Panjim-Goa Respondent

Filed on: 31/01/2025
Decided on: 28/04/2025

ORDER

1. The present second appeal arises out of the Right To Information (RTI) application dated 19/09/2024 made by Shri. Ashutosh A. K. Bawa, the appellant herein and addressed to the Public Information Officer at the Corporation of the City of Panaji.
2. The Public Information Officer (PIO) Shri. Paulo Rodrigues admits on the present day of hearing that from the date of RTI application till present day, no formal intimation was ever sent to the Appellant to collect the relevant information.
3. The grounds resorted to by the PIO, that the Appellant's mother is a staff at the Corporation of City of Panaji and that she was aware of this information and that by virtue of the same the Appellant herein should have collected the information appear to be flimsy and farfetched.

4. This appears to be a classic case of negligence in discharging duties on the part of the Public Information Officer to the extent that the Public Information Officer (PIO) has neither bothered to respond to the RTI application within the stipulated time period of 30 days and moreover has also grossly ignored the directions of the First Appellate Authority (FAA).
5. In the light of the above the present second appeal is disposed with the following orders:
 - a) The present second appeal is allowed.
 - b) The PIO, Paulo Rodrigues is directed to immediately furnish copies of the relevant information sought by the Appellant without charging any fees.
 - c) The PIO is also directed to furnish a compliance report in terms of directions above on or before 30/04/2025 failing which necessary penalty and disciplinary proceedings shall be initiated by the Registry.
 - d) The Director Directorate of Municipal Administration Govt. of Goa is directed to conduct an inquiry into this matter to investigate this instance of denial of information by way of persistent non communication on the part of the PIO or any other staff or Officer that may be responsible in issuance of Communication under the Right to Information Act, 2005.
 - e) The said inquiry report shall be submitted to this Office on or before 09/06/2025 after which necessary decision to conclude proceedings in the matter shall be taken.

f) No order as to cost.

proceeding stands closed.

Pronounced in the open court.

Notify the parties.

Authenticated copies of the Order should be given to the parties free of cost.

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