GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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Appeal No. 207/2025/SCIC

Smt. Kanopatra D. Gaonkar,	
H. No. 623, Bhat wada,	
Bicholim, Goa, 403503.	Appellant
v/s	
The Public Information Officer,	
Directorate of Women & Child Development,	
Panaji – Goa.	Respondent

Shri Aravind Kumar H. Nair - State Chief Information Commissioner

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	16/04/2025
PIO replied on	08/05/2025
First Appeal filed on	23/05/2025
First Appellate order on	25/06/2025
Second appeal received on	10/09/2025
First Hearing	24/10/2025
Decided on	24/10/2025

Information Sought and Background of the Appeal

- 1. Smt. Kanopatra D. Gaonkar filed an RTI application dated 16/04/2025 to the Public Information Officer, Directorate of Women & Child Development seeking the following information:
 - (i) "Order No. 1-201-DWCD/2016-17/Vol-VII/2349 dated 13-06-2023 under which MACPs is granted to seven (07) Mukhiya Sevikas
 - (ii) Copy of noting sheets showing the details of DPC right from put up of proposal till the final notings of DPC along with the statements".
- 2. In response to the RTI application, PIO vide letter dated 08/05/2025 replied as under
 - "**Point No. 1** the said MACP order includes third party information which is exempted under section 8(1) (j) of the RTI Act. Hence the same cannot be provided to the applicant".

"Point No. 2 – the said noting sheets include third party information which is exempted u/s 8(1) (j) of the RTI Act. Hence the same cannot be provided to the appellant. "

- 3. Being aggrieved by the reply furnished by the PIO, appellant filed first appeal dated 23/05/2025 before the First Appellate Authority (Dy. Director/Admn, Directorate of Women & Chid Development) praying that Respondent PIO be directed to provide the information sought vide RTI application dated 16/04/2025.
- 4. FAA passed an order dated 25/06/2025 as under :-

"The PIO shall provide the complete and correct information as sought by the Appellant in the RTI Application dated 16/04/2025 within a period of 10 (ten) working days from the date of receipt of this Order as the information sought by the appellant is related to her service records. If the records/information which will be furnished to the Appellant contains any personal information of other employees/third-party information which is exempted under RTI ACT, necessary redaction may be carried out and the information shall be given to the Appellant after severing the part which contains exempted information".

5. Subsequently, the Respondent PIO vide letter dated 30/06/2025 intimated the Appellant that "With reference to the above, it is to inform that First Appellate Authority vide above Appeal Order dated 25.06.2025 has directed the PIO to provide the information after redacting the third-party information, however, on-going through the Order No. 1-201-DWCD/2016-17/Vol-VII/2349 dated 13.06.2023 sought by you at Sr. No. 1 vide RTI application dated 16.04.2025 does not contain your name.

So also the information sought to the point at Sr. No. 2 of the said RTI application has not mentioned any details of the DPC Noting sheets such as date, number that to be provided to the Appellant".

6. Appellant then preferred second appeal dated 10/09/2025 before the Commission. Accordingly, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 21/10/2025 which however deferred to 24/10/2025.

FACTS EMERGING DURING THE COURSE OF HEARING

- 7. Appellant and Respondent PIO present for the hearing on 24/10/2025. Respondent PIO filed written submission stating that following the order passed by the FAA dated 26/06/2025, Respondent PIO has requested the FAA to guide the Respondent PIO in furnishing the information (on the order of FAA) as the Appellant's name do not figure in the order dated 13/06/2023 sought by the appellant at Point No. 1 of the RTI application and appellant did not mention any date or reference number of DPC and its noting sheet which appellant sought at point No. 2 of the RTI application.
- 8. As Commission also felt that the appellant has not made any reference about the DPC referred in the RTI application, appellant was asked to clarify the same and appellant submitted that she was referring the DPC based on which the order No. 1-201-DWCD/2016-17/Vol.-VII/2349 dated 13-06-2023 was issued granting MACPs to seven Mukhiya Sevikas.
- 9. FAA's remark on the noting sheet was "to seek details from the applicant about the same" and accordingly vide letter dated 30/06/2025, Appellant was informed by the Respondent PIO that the information sought at point No. 1 does not contain the name of applicant and asked to provide proper date or reference number of the DPC. However, till date the PIO has not received any reply from the appellant and Appellant approached the Commission with the present appeal.

DECISION

After going through the appeal memo, reply of the Respondent PIO, FAA's order and the written submission placed before the Commission by the Respondent PIO, the Commission has decided to dispose the matter with the following **directions to the Respondent PIO**:-

- (i) Furnish certified copy of the Order No. 1-201-DWCD/2016-17/Vol-VII/2349 dated 13/06/2023 (mentioned in the Point No. 1 of the RTI application) to the appellant, free of cost, within 10 days from the date of receipt of the order.
- (ii) Furnish noting sheet of the DPC (referred by the Appellant at Point No. 2 of the RTI application) based on which the referred order is issued PROVIDED, Appellant's name figure in the list of names considered and approved by the DPC because
 - i. Disclosure of DPC proceedings under RTI Act, 2005 depends on the applicant's role and the specific information requested.
 - ii. If the applicant was a candidate in the DPC, the proceedings were generally disclosable with personal details of third parties redacted as per Section 10 of the Act.
 - iii. If the applicant is not a candidate, disclosure is restricted as it would involve third party information and disclosure is possible only if it serves a larger public interest and the appropriate procedure, including giving the third party an opportunity to be heard is followed.
 - iv. The candidate is entitled to get information related to his/her own DPC proceedings after applying the doctrine of 'severability'.
 - v. If the applicant is not a candidate in the DPC, then DPC proceedings are considered third party information and are not automatically disclosable.
 - Proceedings stands closed.
 - Pronounced in the 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