

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
"Kamat Towers" 7th Floor, Patto Plaza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001
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Appeal No.141/2026/SCIC

Shri. Shirishkumar Bhagatsingh Tarukar,
R/o. H. No. 64/1, Ecoxim,
Halarn Wada,
Bardez Goa 403101. -----Appellant

V/s

1. The Public Information Officer,
Office of the Principal Chief Engineer,
Public Works Department,
Altinho, Panaji Goa.
2. The First Appellate Authority,
Public Works Department,
Altinho, Panaji Goa. -----Respondents

Shri. ARAVIND KUMAR H. NAIR - State Chief Information Commissioner, GSIC

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	19/02/2026
PIO replied on	27/02/2026
First Appeal filed on	02/03/2026
First Appellate order on	01/04/2026
Second appeal received on	09/04/2026
First Hearing	12/05/2026
Decided on	16/06/2026

Information sought and Background of the Appeal

1. Shri. Shirishkumar Bhagatsingh Tarukar filed an application dated 19/02/2026 under RTI Act, 2005 to the PIO, O/o. the Principal Chief Engineer, PWD, Altinho, Goa seeking caste certificates and creamy layer certificates submitted by 07 candidates recruited by the Goa Staff Selection Commission vide advertisement No. 01/76/2025-GSSC/411 dated 18/07/2025.

2. In response to the RTI application, PIO (Dy. Director/Admin) PWD vide letter dated 27/02/2026 replied that "*information sought by you is exempted u/s 8(1) (j) of the RTI Act, 2005*".
3. Being aggrieved by the reply furnished by the PIO, Appellant filed first appeal dated 02/03/2026 before the First Appellate Authority, PWD, Altinho, Goa.
4. First Appellate Authority (SSW/PWD) vide order dated 01/04/2026 disposed off the first appeal stating that "*this Authority is of the opinion that since the information sought by the Appellant being personal and confidential, section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005 is applicable and therefore this Authority disposed off the present appeal*".
5. Thereafter, Appellant preferred second appeal dated 09/04/2026 before the Commission praying to quash the order passed by the PIO and First Appellate Authority and direct the Respondent PIO to furnish sought information within 24 hours in view of the urgency of the matter.

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

6. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal, matter took up for hearing on 12/05/2026 for which Appellant absent and APIO present for Respondent PIO with an authority letter. Orally directed the APIO to ensure the presence of Respondent PIO for the next hearing (16/06/2026) with reply to the appeal memo and RTI application.
7. When matter took up for hearing on 16/06/2026, Appellant and Respondent PIO present. Respondent PIO filed written submission dated 16/06/2026 stating that the information sought by the Appellant is exempted u/s 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act being personal and confidential and it was informed the Appellant within the stipulated time.

- 8.** Appellant filed written submission dated 16/06/2026 stating that the information (documents) sought are essential for the judicial determination whether the recruitment was conducted as per law. Appellant further submitted that various High Courts and Central Information Commission have held that certificate used to claim public benefits like employment lose their “private” character.

DECISION

- i. Caste and creamy layer certificates of seven (07) individuals in connection with their recruitment for Government job sought by the Appellant are considered as personal information of the said individuals and the disclosure of their caste and creamy layer certificates has no relationship to any public interest.**
- ii. Under section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005, the PIO is mandated to reject requests that cause an unwarranted invasion to the privacy of an individual.**
- iii. Upholding the decision of the Respondent PIO and the order passed by the First Appellate Authority that since the information (copies of caste certificates and creamy layer certificates of seven candidates who have been recruited by the Goa Staff Selection Commission vide advertisement No. 01/76/2025-GSSC/411 dated 18/07/2025) sought by the Appellant being personal and confidential, Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005 is applicable, Commission has come to the conclusion that Respondents in the present appeal took an appropriate decision.**

- iv. Since the information sought by the Appellant is exempted from disclosure u/s 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005 the present appeal is disposed without any intervention by the Commission.
- v. However, if the Appellant has sufficient ground to believe that the seven individuals named in his RTI application dated 19/02/2026 have allegedly obtained Government job using fraudulent certificates, he is at liberty to take up the matter with concerned appropriate forum or court of law.
- Matter disposed.
 - Proceeding stands closed.
 - Pronounced in 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