

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
"Kamat Towers" 7th Floor, Patto Plaza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001
E-mail: spio-gsic.goa@nic.in Website: www.scic.goa.gov.in

Appeal No.171/2026/SCIC

Shri. Ramdas S. Naik,
F-2, Marble Appts., Phase I,
Murida, Fatorda, Salcete Goa 403602. -----Appellant

V/s

1. The Public Information Officer,
Executive Engineer, Works Division XII,
Water Resources Department,
Gogol, Margao, Goa 403602.
2. The Public Information Officer,
Special Land Acquisition Officer(S),
Water Resources Department,
Gogol, Margao, Goa 403602.
3. The First Appellate Authority,
Superintending Engineer,
Central Planning Organization,
Water Resources Department,
Sinchai Bhavan, Alto-Porvorim,
Goa 403521. -----Respondents

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

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	15/12/2025
PIO replied on	02/01/2026
First Appeal filed on	12/02/2026
First Appellate order on	09/03/2026
Second appeal received on	03/05/2026
First Hearing	11/06/2026
Decided on	11/06/2026

Information sought and Background of the Appeal

1. Shri. Ramdas S. Naik filed an RTI application dated 15/12/2025 to the PIO, O/o. Executive Engineer, Work Div. XII, Water Resources Department, Gogol, Margao, Goa seeking information at three points.

2. In response to the RTI application, PIO (Executive Engineer) vide letter dated 02/01/2026 furnished information in respect of Point No. 2 of the RTI application and with regards to Point No. 1 and 3, PIO replied that *"to be complied by the Special Land Acquisition Officer, WRD, Gogol, Margao"*.

On the same day (02/01/2026), PIO transferred the RTI application to the PIO, Special Land Acquisition Officer (S), Water Resources Department with the request to furnish information in respect of Point No. 1 and 3 of the application to the Appellant directly.

3. PIO/Special Land Acquisition Officer vide letter dated 19/01/2026 replied/furnished information to the Appellant.

4. Appellant then filed first appeal dated 12/02/2026 before the First Appellate Authority praying for direction to the PIO (SLAO) to furnish sought information.

5. First Appellate Authority (Superintending Engineer/CPO), Water Resources Department, Porvorim, Goa passed an order dated 09/03/2026 as under:

"The Appellant may collect the copies of the relevant plans available in the Special Land Acquisition Office. If desired, may inspect the relevant land acquisition files and request for the desired documents. Special Land Acquisition Officer, Respondent NO. 2 shall co-operate in this regards".

6. Pursuant to the First Appellate Authority's Order, Appellant vide letter dated 18/03/2026 requested the PIO/Special Land Acquisition Officer to issue certified documents as per the order passed by the First Appellate Authority.

In response to the above cited letter, PIO/Special Land Acquisition Officer vide letter dated 20/03/2026 intimated the Appellant as follows -

- i. The Appellant/his authorized representative may inspect the relevant land acquisition records and plans available in this office during working hours with prior intimation.*
- ii. Alternatively, the applicant / his authorized representative may get the copies made from an external photocopying agency of his choice under due supervision and bear the cost directly.*
- iii. The request for supply of documents free of cost is not tenable. As per Section 7(6) of the RTI Act, 2005, free supply of information is applicable only where the information is not provided within the prescribed time limits. In the present case, the information has been made available within the stipulated period.*

7. Appellant subsequently approached the Commission with second appeal dated 03/05/2026 praying for direction to the Respondent No. 02 to furnish the information (plan) free of cost.

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

8. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal, matter took up for hearing for which Appellant's authorised representative Shri. Uday Naik (with authority letter). Respondent No. 1 (PIO/Executive Engineer, W.D. XII., WRD), Respondent No. 2 (PIO/Special Land Acquisition Officer) and First Appellate Authority (Superintending Engineer, WRD) present.

9. Upon perusal of the second appeal and materials on record, Commission found that :

- i. Both the Respondents (01 and 02) have been responded the Appellant's application promptly.*
- ii. When Respondent No. 1 furnished information within stipulated time, Respondent No. 2, who received the original RTI application on transfer from Respondent No. 1, replied promptly.*

- iii. *When Appellant approached the Respondent No. 2 seeking certified copy of information (plans) based on the First Appellate Authority's order, Respondent No. 2 stated that supply of document free of cost is not tenable and suggested the Appellant to avail the document bearing the cost for photocopying.*
- iv. *Appellant's core issue is the payment of fee to avail the information.*
- v. *The First Appellate Authority's order lacks direction to furnish information free of cost or on payment.*

DECISION

Even though there is no denial or delay in furnishing reply/information on the part of Respondent No. 1 and 2, Commission hereby direct Respondent No. 2 (PIO & SLAO, WRD, Gogol, Margao) to furnish sought information (relevant plan) to the Appellant or his authorised representative, free of cost and accordingly Respondent No. 02 agreed to furnish copy of relevant plan with stamping 'Issued under RTI Act', seal and initial of the PIO on June 12, 2026.

- 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