

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

"Kamat Towers" 7th Floor, Patto Plaza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001

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Appeal No.213/2026/SCIC

Shri. Oscar Gomes,
Novangully, H. No. 92/A,
Varca, Goa 403721.

-----Appellant

V/s

1. The Public Information Officer,
O/o. Village Panchayat of Varca,
Varca, Goa 403721.

2. The First Appellate Authority,
The Block Development Officer (South),
Margao, Salcete, Goa 403601.

-----Respondents

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

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	03/02/2026
PIO replied on	-
First Appeal filed on	04/03/2026
First Appellate order on	25/03/2026
Second appeal received on	01/06/2026
First Hearing	15/07/2026
Decided on	15/07/2026

Information sought and Background of the Appeal

1. Shri. Oscar Gomes filed an application dated 03/02/2026 under RTI Act, 2005 to the PIO, Village Panchayat of Varca, Goa seeking information at four (04) points.
2. Failing to receive any reply or information to his RTI Application, Applicant filed first appeal dated 04/03/2026 before the First Appellate Authority (B.D.O., Salcete, South Goa) stating non-receipt of the information from the PIO, Village Panchayat, Varca.

3. First Appellate Authority (B.D.O-I, Salcete) vide order dated 25/03/2026 directed the Respondent PIO to provide information with respect to Point No. 01-04 of RTI application dated 03/02/2026 within 10 days of passing the order.
4. Appellant subsequently preferred second appeal dated 01/06/2026 before the Commission stating non-receipt of the information from the Respondent PIO and non-compliance of the First Appellate Authority's order by the Respondent PIO.

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

5. Pursuant to the filing of the second appeal, matter took up for hearing on 15/07/2026 for which Appellant and Respondent PIO present.

Respondent PIO filed written submission with respect to the 04 - point RTI queries of the Appellant dated 03/02/2026 supported by few documents. Information produced before the Presiding Commissioner is duly furnished to the Appellant, who upon perusal orally submitted that no proper reply or information is provided to Point No. 01 to 03 of his RTI application.

6. Commission found that appropriate information is furnished in respect of RTI query No. 04 but with regard to query No. 03, wrong document is furnished.

Similarly, information provided at query No. 01 and 02 is not complete. Respondent PIO orally submitted action taken report sought by the Appellant. Memo No.3/Complaint/Varca/BDOs/2025/3629 dated 15/09/2025 could not be furnished as the Panchayat yet to receive the legal advice in order to initiate action, even though the said memorandum was placed before the Panchayat body meeting on 24/02/2026 and noted the content in the meeting. Respondent PIO further submitted that information sought at Point No. 03 will be furnished to the Appellant.

DECISION

Since the information furnished by the Respondent PIO, Village Panchayat, Varca to the Appellant before the Presiding Commissioner on 15/07/2026 found to be incomplete, **Commission directed the Respondent PIO** to furnish following information, free of cost, to the Appellant within 07 days from the receipt of this order:

- i. Information in respect of Point No. 02 (action taken report) and Point No. 03 (copy of the letter dated 20/02/2006), which is addressed to the Appellant by the Dy. Director of Panchayats, South Goa and subsequently given to the Village Panchayat, Varca by the Appellant on 19/07/2025.*

Since the Appellant personally furnished at the office of Respondent PIO on 19/07/2025, a copy of the letter dated 20/02/2006 addressed by Deputy Director of Panchayat, South Goa to Shri Oscar Gomes (Appellant), PIO should furnish only the copy of the said letter and not a certified copy as sought by the Appellant in the RTI application because the said letter is originated from the Directorate of Panchayats, South Goa and not from the Village Panchayat, Varca.

- ii. Since the Panchayat Resolution dated 24/02/2026 decided to seek legal advice in the matter pertaining to the Appellant, **Commission hereby directed the Respondent PIO** to follow up with the concerned lawyer to avail the legal advice at the earliest to initiate action and to furnish action taken report to the Appellant at the earliest.*
- iii. File compliance report within 15 days from the receipt of this order.*

- 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