

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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

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Appeal No.91/2026/SCIC

Shri Amir Jevindra Naik,
Behind KTC Bus Stand, Vollant,
Vasco-Da-Gama, Goa 403802.

-----Appellant

V/s

The Public Information Officer,
Electricity Department, Division XI,
Near KTC BusStand, Vidyut Bhavan,
Vasco-Da-Gama, Goa 403802.

-----Respondent

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

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	01/10/2025
PIO replied on	23/10/2025
First Appeal filed on	02/12/2025
First Appellate order on	15/12/2025
Second appeal received on	05/03/2026
First Hearing	27/04/2026
Decided on	08/06/2026

Information sought and Background of the Appeal

1. Shri. Amir Jevindra Naik filed an application dated 01/10/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 to the PIO, SD-I, Div. XI, Electricity Department, Vasco Da Gama seeking details in respect of the Electricity Connection No. 5000154807 of Shri. Dayanand B. Naik.
2. In response to the RTI application, Executive Engineer (Elect), Div. XI, Vasco vide letter dated 23/10/2025 forwarded the reply received to the 06 point RTI application dated 01/10/2025 from the Assistant Engineer, SD-I, (U), Vasco, stating that "*Records are not traceable in this office*".

3. Being aggrieved by the reply received from the PIO, Appellant filed first appeal dated 02/12/2025 before the First Appellate Authority praying for a direction to the Respondent PIO to furnish sought information.
4. First Appellate Authority (Superintending Engineer-I (S), Margao) vide order dated 15/12/2025 directed the Respondent PIO to re-search the documents sought by the Appellant and furnish the information within 15 days and if not traceable, the party may be intimated accordingly.
5. Following the First Appellate Authority's order, Executive Engineer (Elect), Div. XI, Vasco vide letter dated 05/01/2026 intimated the Appellant that despite putting all efforts to trace the file in question, same is not traceable.
6. Subsequently, Appellant preferred second appeal dated 05/03/2026 before the Commission stating that the Respondent PIO has failed to provide information and non-compliance of the First Appellate Authority's order. Appellant prayed for direction to the Respondent PIO to provide complete information as sought vide RTI application dated 01/10/2025 and direct the Electricity Department to file an explanation regarding loss or non-availability of official records sought by the Appellant.

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

7. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal, matter took up for hearing on 27/04/2026 for which Appellant and Respondent PIO (Executive Engineer) present. Respondent PIO filed written submission dated 23/04/2026 stating that the Custodian of the Records (A.E) conducted thorough search and vide letter dated 23/10/2025 reported that sought information (records) are not traceable. Respondent PIO further submitted that non-traceability of records despite diligent and bonafide efforts does not amount to denial of information and there

has been no suppression or denial of information by the Respondent PIO.

- 8.** Appellant in his written submission stated that since the information sought is extremely relevant, Respondent PIO be directed to conduct a fresh and exhaustive search of all records and furnish sought information.
- 9.** After hearing both the parties, Presiding Commissioner directed the Respondent PIO to make another attempt to trace the records pertaining to the information sought by the Appellant and fixed the matter for further hearing on 08/06/2026.
- 10.** When the matter called out on 08/06/2026, Appellant present with his lawyer and Respondent PIO present. Respondent PIO filed a letter dated 27/05/2026 addressed to the Executive Engineer, Div. XI by Asst. Engineer, S.D. I (Custodian of Records) as compliance to the oral direction dated 27/04/2026 of the Presiding Commissioner. Respondent PIO based on the above cited letter submitted that :

 - a) Fresh, thorough and exhaustive search of all records pertaining to electricity connection bearing CA No. 60001613276 and installation No. 5000154807 was carried out. Extra staff were deployed to carry out the fresh search of the records as directed by the Hon'ble Commission.*
 - b) All possible locations like record/store rooms, table drawers, cupboards, registers were covered under the fresh search exercise.*
 - c) Extreme and bonafide efforts were made to trace and locate the records/documents sought by the appellant, including verification from the concerned section and record room.*
 - d) No material information available on record has been withheld.*
 - e) Further, despite rigorous search and due diligence exercised by the concerned officials the relevant records/documents could not be traced and are presently not available in the custody/control of this office.*
 - f) Hence, there has been no intentional withholding or malafide denial of information on the part of the undersigned. The non-furnishing of information is solely due to non-availability/non-traceability of the records.*

DECISION

- i. **Since the Respondent PIO(Executive Engineer, Div. XI, Vasco) could not locate the file or records pertaining to the information sought by the Appellant even after fresh, thorough and exhaustive search, Commission hereby direct the Respondent PIO to furnish an Affidavit to the Appellant within 07 days reflecting the statements made at Point a, b, d, and e of the letter dated 27/05/2026 addressed to the Executive Engineer, Division XI, Electricity Department, Vasco by Assistant Engineer, Elect, SD-I (U), Vasco (Custodian of Records).**

File compliance report to the Commission within 10 days from the receipt of the order.

- ii. ***Commission appreciate the steps like proper file indexing, digitization of records, file tracking system, record room management etc. initiated by the Electricity Department, Government of Goa in order to streamline the records and to ensure appropriate record management system in place on an earlier direction of the State Chief Information Commissioner (Order in Appeal No.251/2025/SCIC dated 26.11.2025).***

- 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