

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
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Appeal No. 108/2025/SIC

Shri. Ashish Parab,
H. No. 2, Mulgao, Gaonkarwada,
Bicholim- Goa. 403503.

..... **Appellant**

V/s

1.The Public Information Officer (PIO),
Village Panchayat Latambarcem,
Near State Bank, Kasarpal,
Bicholim-Goa.

2.The First Appellate Authority/Principal,
BDO Office, Bicholim Taluka,
Near Post Office, Bicholim-Goa.

.....**Respondents**

Shri. Atmaram R. Barve

State Information Commissioner

Filed on: 20/05/2025
Disposed on: 11/02/2026

ORDER

1. The present Second Appeal arises out of the Right to Information (RTI) application dated 07/03/2025 made by the Appellant herein Shri. Ashish Parab and addressed to the Public Information Officer (PIO) at Village Panchayat Latambarcem, Bicholim-Goa.
2. Citing the grounds of non-issuance of response by the PIO within stipulated time frame of 30 days, the Appellant herein preferred the First Appeal before competent authority.
3. The PIO during course of hearing before the FAA provided a reply to the Appellant as "Nil" pertaining to point No. 1 till point No. 13 of the Appellants RTI application. Based on the

same, FAA disposed the First Appeal vide its order dated 24/04/2025.

4. Thereafter, the Appellant herein preferred the Second Appeal before this authority vide Appeal memo dated 20/05/2025 pretending that the PIO has not replied within stipulated time and that the BDO has not passed any order in First Appeal.
5. The Appellant herein further contends that in response to separate application dated 03/03/2025 on the same subject matter, the PIO has given a detailed reply and that the said PIO has acted in inconsistent manner and had submitted false submissions before the FAA. Notice were issued and matter came up to be heard from 17/07/2025 onwards. On hearing dated 08/10/2025 notice was issued to the PIO as well as FAA to file their reply and also mention the name of the relevant PIO in this matter. On hearing dated 19/11/2025 the PIO again remained absent and did not file any reply and the matter was postponed to 08/01/2026.
6. On 08/01/2026 yet again the PIO remained absent and also failed to file any reply to the Appeal memo as directed on 08/10/2025 and as such this Commission issued Show Cause Notice to the PIO through the Block Development Officer concerned mandating his presence along with a reply to the Show Cause Notice on present day of hearing.
7. On the present day, Shri. Omkar Manjrekar, the FAA and Shri. Subodh Prabhu present PIO at Village Panchayat Latambarcem remain present and ascertain that the relevant PIO in this matter is Shri. Ashok Naik who is presently posted with Office of the Block Development Officer, Tiswadi Taluka.
8. Upon perusal of Appeal memo, replies filed by FAA and other material on record this Commission is of considered opinion as under:

- a. The conduct of the relevant PIO, Shri. Ashok Naik is of gross negligence towards his duties entrusted under RTI Act.
 - b. It is evident from the material of record that the said PIO has given inconsistent reply into similar RTI application thereby causing denial of information to the information seeker.
 - c. Continuous absenteeism, not filing reply to the Appel memo for more than 90 days, not replying to the Show Cause Notice have to be seen as nothing less than utter disregard towards RTI Act and the authorities constituted thereunder.
 - d. The conduct of the said PIO, Shri. Ashok Naik, has not only caused denial of information but has also brought disrepute to the designation of the PIO and such a conduct deserves to be dealt with so as to create a deterrent precedent for other PIOs.
9. Therefore in view of the above the present second appeal is disposed with following order:-
- a. The present second appeal is upheld.
 - b. The present PIO, Shri. Subodh Prabhu is hereby directed to reaccess the RTI application dated 07/03/2025 and provide a pointwise reply to the Appellant herein by way of providing inspection of relevant documents and certified true copies of the same free of cost on 10/03/2026 during office hours and record minutes of proceedings and seek the signature of the Appellant herein upon completion of the said exercise.

- c. Registry is to issue Show Cause Notice to present PIO seeking his reply as to why any action should not be initiated for non compliance of above directions and also directing the PIO to file compliance report by remaining present in person on 12/03/2026.
- d. The relevant PIO, Shri. Ashok Naik is found to have attracted necessary action in terms of Section 20(1) and Section 20(2) of the RTI Act and accordingly the Director, Directorate of Panchayat, Government of Goa is hereby directed to recover a penalty to the tune of Rs. 25000/- from salaries and allowances of the said PIO, Shri. Ashok Naik on or before 10/03/2026 and also initiate disciplinary proceedings against Shri. Ashok Naik for having acted against the letter and spirit of RTI Act 2005. The said directions be complied on or before 10/03/2026 and a compliance report to be submitted on 12/03/2026 by remaining present in person or through any authorised representative.
- No order as to cost.
 - Parties to be provided authenticated copies of this order separately under each appeal number.
 - 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/-

(ATMARAM R. BARVE)

State Information Commissioner