

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
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Appeal No. 208/2025/SIC

Anthony da Piedade Fernandes,
H.No. 54/C, Near Government Primary School,
Xell, Bastora, Bardez Goa. **Appellant**

V/s

1.Public Information Officer (PIO),
Directorate of Social Welfare,
Panaji-Goa.

2.First Appellate Authority (FAA),
Directorate of Social Welfare,
Panaji-Goa.

..... **Respondents**

Shri. Atmaram R. Barve

State Information Commissioner

Filed on:24/06/2025

Disposed on:11/02/2026

ORDER

1. The present Second Appeal arises out of the RTI application dated 03/02/2025 made by the Appellant herein, Shri. Anthony da Piedade Fernandes and addressed to the PIO at the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Goa, Panaji by way of online application.
2. Aggrieved by not receiving within stipulated time period the Appellant herein preferred the First Appeal before the FAA through speed post on 05/03/2025.
3. Thereafter citing the grounds of no response from the PIO as well as the FAA the Appellant herein preferred First Appeal before this Commission vide Appeal memo dated 24/06/2025.
4. Notices were served and matter came up to be heard from 24/11/2025 onwards.
5. On the first date of hearing, the FAA, Shri. Daulatrao Rane Sardessai collected a copy of Appeal memo, however the PIO remained absent.

6. On 08/01/2026 yet again the PIO as well as the FAA remained absent and also failed to file any reply to the Appeal memo and accordingly this Commission issued Show Cause Notice to both these parties directing them to remain present alongwith reply on present day of hearing.
7. The perusal of the Appeal memo in the present matter exposes the apathy of the official of the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Goa towards discharging the duties in terms of the RTI Act 2005.
8. In spite of having being given ample of opportunities the FAA as well as the PIO have chosen not to file any reply thereby displaying their utter disregard and disrespect towards the very essence of the RTI Act.
9. Such a conduct; if left unattended shall set a wrong precedent and discourage common citizens from getting rightful access to the desired information.
10. Therefore in view of the above the present Second Appeal is disposed with following orders:
 - a-The present Second Appeal is allowed.
 - b-The Director, Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Goa is hereby directed to forthwith intimate the names of relevant PIO as well as the FAA responsible in this matter to this Commission on or before 20/02/2026.
 - c- The Director, Director of Social Welfare, Government of Goa is further directed to recover a penalty to tune of Rs. 25,000/- from salaries and allowances of the relevant PIO in this matter towards the gross misconduct displayed thereby causing denial of information to the Appellant herein. The said recovery to be completed on or before 10/03/2026 and compliance report to that effect to be completed by remaining present in person or through any authorized representative on 12/03/2026 at 11.00 a.m.
 - d- The Director, Director of Social Welfare, Government of Goa is also directed to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the relevant FAA whereby the FAA failed to take up the First Appeal filed by the Appellant herein. The said inquiry proceedings to be completed on or before 10/03/2026 and a

complete report to that effect to be submitted on 12/03/2026 accordingly.

e- The Director, Director of Social Welfare, Government of Goa shall also ensure that a detailed pointwise reply to the RTI application dated 03/02/2025 is provided free of cost to the Appellant herein on or before 10/03/2026 and a compliance to that effect is to be furnished to this Commission on 12/03/2026.

- No order as to cost.
- Parties to be provided authenticated copies of the order.
- Aggrieved party if any, may move against this order by way of 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