

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
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Appeal No. 236/2025/SIC

Shri. Nazareth Baretto,
H. No. 126 Borda,
Margao, Salcete- Goa

..... **Appellant**

V/s

1.The Public Information Officer (PIO),
O/o The South Goa Planning
& Development Authority,
Margao, Salcete-Goa.

2.The First Appellate Authority (FAA),
O/o The Member Secretary,
Planning & Development Authority,
Margao-Goa.

.....**Respondents**

Shri. Atmaram R. Barve

State Information Commissioner

Filed on: 06/10/2025
Disposed on: 07/01/2026

ORDER

1. The present Second Appeal arises out of the Right to Information (RTI) application dated 27/05/2025 made by the Appellant, Shri. Nazareth Barreto and addressed to the Public Information Officer (PIO) at the Office of the South Goa Planning and Development Authority, Margao, Salcete Goa.
2. The PIO, Socorina Gomes vide her reply dated 25/06/2025 issued a reply to the said RTI application inviting the Appellant herein to collect information part to 1 & 2 of his information upon payment of Rs. 8/- and that information pertaining to serial 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 respectively was not available & hence cannot be issued.

3. Aggrieved by this reply, the Appellant herein preferred first appeal before the Competent Authority on 24/07/2025. Thereafter citing the grounds with the first appeal has not been heard or decided within the stipulated time frame the Appellant herein preferred second appeal vide appeal memo dated 06/10/2025.
4. Upon hearing the contentions of both the parties and upon perusal of appeal memo, this Commission is of considered opinion as under:
 - a. Prima Facie; it appears that the PIO, Smt. Socorrina Gomes has duly responded to RTI application with stipulated time of 30 days.
 - b. The FAA has grossly failed to conduct its inherent duties under RTI Act & has surprisingly not even issued any notices to commence the proceeding of first appeal thereby causing grave prejudice to the claims and contention of the Appellant herein.
 - c. Such an attitude of the FAA if left unattended shall defeat the very purpose of enacting the RTI Act & shall discourage the information seekers from their right to access to information.
5. Therefore in view of the above the present second appeal is disposed with following order:-
 - a. The present second appeal is partially allowed.
 - b. The Secretary, Department of Town & Country Planning, Government of Goa is hereby directed to initiate inquiry against the relevant FAA in this present matter and

complete the said exercise on or before 30/01/2026 and submit compliance report to that effect on or before 03/02/2026.

c. The FAA is hereby directed to conduct proceeding of first appeal forthwith and complete the same within period of 45 days from issuance of this order; failing which the Appellant herein shall be at liberty to approach this Commission with complaint accordingly.

- 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