

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
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Appeal No. 238/2024/SIC

Miss. Princy Furtado,
R/o. H.No. 845, Mandopa,
Navelim, Salcete-Goa 403731.

.....Appellant

V/S

1. Public Information Officer,
Secretary of Village Panchayat Navelim,
Salcete-Goa 403707.

2. The First Appellate Authority,
Block Development Officer-II of Salcete,
O/o. BDO, Room No. 223, 2nd Floor,
Mathany Salhana Administrative Complex,
Margao-Goa 403601.

.....Respondents

Shri. Atmaram R. Barve

State Information Commissioner

Filed on: 28/10/2024
Decided on: 06/05/2025
Detailed Order passed on: 30/03/2026

ORDER

1. The present second appeal arises out of the Right to Information (RTI) application dated 28/05/2024 made by the Appellant, Miss. Princy Furtado and addressed to the Public Information Officer (PIO) at office of Village Panchayat Navelim, Salcete-Goa.
2. It is contended by the Appellant herein, that the PIO did not issue any communication to the said RTI application with stipulated time period of 30 days upon which the Appellant had to preferred first appeal dated 04/07/2024 before the competent authority

3. The First Appellate Authority (FAA) vide order dated 06/08/2024 directed the PIO to furnish the available information to the Appellant within 15 days at free of cost.
4. Aggrieved by the order of the FAA, the Appellant herein preferred second appeal vide appeal memo dated 28/10/2024 before this Commission.
5. Notices were issued and matter came up to be heard from 18/02/2025 onwards.
6. The PIO, Ms. Sunita V. Dessai contended that, the RTI matter is pertaining to the period of then V.P. Secretary, Shri. Khushalidas Gaonkar.
7. The then PIO, Shri. Khushalidas Gaonkar through his reply contended that, he had issued a communication dated 20/06/2024 regarding to collect the certified copies of information by making payment of Rs. 1588/-, but the same was not received by the Appellant as per the available records in the file. He also that, the order of the FAA was complied by him and to substantiate his statement he has placed on record the acknowledgement A/D card received from Postal Authority.
8. The Appellant contended that, the intimation received by him on 21/06/2024 pertains to the other RTI application dated 29/05/2024 and not regarding the present matter. The PIO has wrongly intimated the Appellant about his RTI application.
9. Upon perusal of the appeal, reply, rejoinders and other materials on record this Commission is of considered opinion as under:-

- a. The PIO has duly failed to discharge his duties by not replying to the RTI application within the stipulated time period of 30 days.
 - b. The then PIO, Shri. Khushalidas Gaonkar has also grossly failed in replying to the second appeal. Since the reply filed by the PIO is contradicting to the RTI application filed by the Appellant.
 - c. The First Appellate Authority (FAA) has duly discharge his duty by passing speaking order.
10. Therefore, in view of above, the present second appeal is disposed off with following order.
- a. The present second appeal is upheld.
 - b. The present PIO at Village Panchayat Navelim is hereby directed to provide inspection afresh to the Appellant as per her RTI application dated 29/05/2024 and also provide the requested copies free of cost to the Appellant on or before 20/04/2026.
 - c. Registry to issue show cause notice to the present PIO and then PIO, Khushalidas Gaonkar as to why action should not be initiated under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act and reply to the show cause notice to be filed by remaining present in person alongwith compliance report in respect to above mentioned directions on **14/05/2026 at 11.00 am;** failing which necessary penalty/ disciplinary proceeding shall be initiated against them.
 - 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 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