

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
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Appeal No. 396/2023/SIC

Comunidade Fraternal de Aldona,
Through its President, Glen Roberto Bocarro,
C/o Comunidade Fraternal de Aldona,
Cottarbhat, Aldona,
Bardez-Goa. 403508.

.....Appellant

V/S

1. Public Information Officer,
Village Panchayat Aldona,
Cottarbhat, Aldon,
Bardez-Goa 403508.

2. Shri. Prathamesh Anil Shankardas,
First Appellate Authority/ Block Development Officer-II,
Of Bardez, Mapusa-Goa.Respondents

Shri. Atmaram R. Barve State Information Commissioner

Filed on: 10/10/2023
Decided on: 05/02/2025
Detailed Order passed on: 24/03/2026

ORDER

1. The present second appeal arises out of the Right to Information (RTI) application dated 23/06/2023 made by the Firm Comunidade Fraternal de Aldona (Appellant) and addressed to the Public Information Officer (PIO) at office of Village Panchayat Aldona, Bardez-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 28/07/2023 before the competent authority.

3. The First Appellate Authority (FAA) vide order dated 08/08/2023 directed the Respondent to furnish the requested information in the present matter within 10 days from passing of this order.
4. Aggrieved with the order of the FAA dated 08/08/2023, the Appellant herein preferred second appeal vide appeal memo dated 10/10/2023 before this Commission.
5. Notices were issued and matter came up to be heard from 20/12/2023 onwards.
6. Matter could not be heard between February 2024 to September 2024 due to former SIC demitting office and hearings resumed from September 2024 onwards.
7. During the hearing on 15/10/2024, the Commission issued show cause notice to PIO for seeking clarification on inordinate delay to file reply in the matter and also gave additional 7 days time to file the reply to appeal as well as the show cause notice; failing which matter will be decided and penal proceeding shall be initiated against the PIO.
8. On hearing dated 12/11/2024, the PIO filed reply to appeal memo alongwith supporting documents dated 11/11/2024. Considering the voluminous nature of the reply, the Commission gave ample time to Appellant to peruse the reply and to file his rejoinder on or before 29/11/2024.
9. The Appellant has filed his rejoinder dated 20/01/2025. He also contended that he had sought for information on 30 points which was required to produce before the competent court of law wherein the Respondent No. 1 is involved in committing illegalities and fraud.

10. Upon perusal of the appeal, reply, rejoinder and other materials on record this Commission is of considered opinion as under:-
- a. Primarily the PIO appears to have failed to discharge her/his duties by way of not providing information to the Appellant herein within stipulated time period of 30 days, but the information sought was voluminous in nature.
 - b. The First Appellate Authority (FAA) has discharged his duty by way of passing a speaking order in the first appeal.
 - c. Secondly, the present PIO has also failed to provide the information to the Appellant inspite of the directions of this Commission, which shows gross negligence on the part of the PIO.
11. Therefore, in view of above, the second appeal is disposed off with following order:-
- a. The second appeal is upheld.
 - b. The present PIO, Village Panchayat Aldona is hereby directed to furnish the information to the Appellant free of cost within 15 days from the receipt of this order.
 - c. Registry to issue show cause notice to the then PIO, Smt. Navanya Goltekar as well as present PIO of Village Panchayat Aldona seeking response as to why no action should be initiated against them for non-compliance of the directions issued by this Commission. Both the PIO's shall remain present in person with reply to show cause notice alongwith compliance report as mentioned herein above on **21/04/2026 at 11.00 am**; failing which necessary

disciplinary action and penalty proceeding shall be initiated accordingly.

- 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