GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION AT PANAJI

CORAM: Shri. M. S. Keny, State Chief Information Commissioner

Complaint No. 162/SIC/2011

Mr. Chandreshwar B. Naik, H. No. 422, Dhulapi, Khorlim, Tiswadi – Goa

Complainant

V/s.

Panchayat Secretary, Village Panchayat of Khorlim, Khorlim, Tiswadi – Goa

Opponent.

Adv. Shri V. G. Kurtikar for the Complainant. Opponent absent.

ORDER (11.04.2012)

- 1. The Complainant, Shri Chandreshwar B. Naik, has filed the present Complaint praying that strict punishment be imposed upon the opposite party by imposing penalty as prescribed under Section of the Right to Information Act, 2005.
- 2. The brief facts leading to the present Complaint are as under:-

That the Complainant vide application dated 04.10.2011, sought certain information under Right to Information Act, 2005 ('R.T.I. Act' for short) from the Public Information Officer (P.I.O.)/Opponent. That the Opponent has deliberately provided incomplete information to the Complainant and has not furnished any explanation as to why the said documents were not furnished to the Complainant. It is the case of the Complainant that the Opponent is liable for punishment and should be directed to pay compensation to the Complainant for providing incomplete information to the Complainant and hence the present Complaint.

In pursuance of the notice issued the Opponent appeared however later on the Opponent did not appear though notice was issued to him to remain present. In any case I am proceeding on the basis of record.

3. Heard the learned Adv. Shri V. G. Kurtikar for the Complainant and perused the records.

It is seen that the Complainant vide his application dated 04.10.2011 sought certain information from the Opponent. The information consisted of 7 items i.e. Sr. No. 1 to 7 and mostly comprised of documents pertaining to his complaint dated 04.10.2011. By reply dated 01.11.2011 the Opponent informed the Complainant that information is kept ready and he may collect it on any working day during office hours after paying the necessary fees. It appears that the Complainant received the information.

The only grievance of the Complainant is that the information provided to him is incomplete.

4. Advocate for the Complainant contends that the information is incomplete.

It is to be noted here that purpose of the RTI Act is per se to furnish information. Of course the complainant has a right to establish that information furnished to him is false, incorrect, misleading etc. but the Complainant has to prove it to counter opponent's claim. The information seeker must feel that he got the true and correct information otherwise the purpose of R.T.I. Act would be defeated. It is pertinent to note that the mandate of R.T.I. Act is to provide information – information correct to the core and it is for the complainant to establish that what he has received is incorrect and incomplete. The approach of the Commission is to attenuate the area of secrecy as much as possible. With this view in mind, I am of the opinion that the complainant must be given an opportunity to substantiate that the information given to him is incomplete, incorrect, misleading etc. as provided in Sec.18(1)(e) of the R.T.I. Act.

5. In view of all the above I pass the following Order:-

ORDER

The Complaint is allowed. The Complainant to prove that information furnished is incorrect, incomplete, etc.

Further inquiry posted on 04/06/2012 at 10.30 am.

The Complaint is accordingly disposed off.

Pronounced in the Commission on this 11th day of April, 2012.

Sd/(M. S. Keny)
State Chief Information Commissioner