

**GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION AT  
PANAJI**

**CORAM:** Shri Afonso Araujo, State Information Commissioner

Complaint No. 74/SIC/2008

1) Lirio Lopes Lobo  
2) Tanya Mendonca  
Residents of Sataporio Ward  
V. P. Moira, Bardez  
Goa – 403 514

...Complainants

V/s.

1) The Public Information Officer  
Secretary: Village Panchayat of Moira  
Moira, Bardez  
Goa – 403 514

...Opponent

Dated: 02.07.2009

**ORDER**

(Per Afonso Araujo)

The information sought under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (for short 'The Act') by the Complainant No. 1 Shri Lirio Lopes Lobo and Complainant No. 2 Ms. Tanya Mendonca was denied by the Opponent No. 1. In the appeal preferred by the Complainants before the First Appellate Authority, by order dated 17.03.2009 the appeal was dismissed thereby denying the request of the Complainants. Hence this complaint.

2. The Complainants moved the Opponent No. 1 with request dated 23.01.2009 and sought information in respect of the construction of the road and required documents mentioned at serial No. 1 to 7 in the said letter. The Opponent in reply dated 04.02.2009 stated that a group of persons are not allowed to seek information and information may be sought individually. The First Appellate Authority agreed with the reasoning of the Public Information Officer and declined the information to the Complainants.

3. Heard all the parties and I have gone through records of the case.

4. The information sought on 23.01.2009 was by two persons namely, Lirio Lopes Lobo and Tanya Mendonca. The Opponent No. 1 denied the information on the reasoning that a group of persons cannot seek information under the Act and the information has to be sought individually. Nothing prevents a group of persons seeking the information but the propriety requires that a group of persons should be represented by one individual so as to enable the Public Information Officer to discharge his functions effectively in providing the information. The request for information by a group of persons may cause inconvenience to the Public Information Officer to reply to each individual. If a group of persons needs information they should appoint their representative and through him seek the information required.

5. The Opponent to entertain the request for information only of the Complainant Shri Lirio Lopes Lobo and decide according to provisions of section 7(1) of the Act. The Opponent is directed to dispose the request of Lirio Lopes Lobo dated 23.01.2009 by 24.07.2009. Accordingly, the complaint is disposed off.

Sd/-  
(Afonso Araujo)  
State Information Commissioner