

**GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION AT
PANAJI**

CORAM: Shri Afonso Araujo, State Information Commissioner

Complaint No. 75/SIC/2008

1) Nazar Da Silva
2) Tanya Mendonca
3) Anna E. Jambunathan
4) Floriano C. Lobo
Residents of Moira
C/o. 709, Sataporio
V. P. Moira
Bardez Goa

...Complainants

V/s.

1) The Public Information Officer
The Secretary Village Panchayat of Moira
Moira, Bardez - Goa

...Opponent No. 1

2) First Appellate Authority
Block Development Officer Bardez-II
Mapusa, Bardez – Goa

... Opponent No. 2

Dated: 02.07.2009

ORDER

(Per Afonso Araujo)

The information sought under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (for short ‘The Act’) by the Complainants (1) Nazar Da Silva, (2) Tanya Mendonca, (3) Anne E. Jambunathan and (4) Floriano C. Lobo 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 15.10.2008 and sought information in respect of the construction of a house of Shri Philip V. D’Souza/Anna D’Souza and required documents mentioned in the said letter. The Opponent No. 1 in reply dated 11.11.2008 stated that a group of

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persons are not allowed to seek information and has to 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 15.10.2008 was by four persons namely, Nazar Da Silva, Tanya Mendonca, Anne E. Jambunathan and Floriano C. Lobo. 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 No. 1 to entertain the request for information only of the Complainant Shri Nazar Da Silva and decide according to provisions of section 7(1) of the Act. The Opponent No. 1 is directed to dispose the request of Nazar Da Silva dated 15.10.2008 by 24.07.2009. Accordingly, the complaint is disposed off.

Sd/-
(Afonso Araujo)
State Information Commissioner