

GOA INFORMATION COMMISSION

Ground Floor, "Shrama Shakti Bhavan", Patto Plaza, Panaji.

Appeal No. 11/2008

Mr. Rony Dias,
H. No. 02, Murida,
Cuncolim, Salcete – Goa.

..... Appellant.

V/s.

1. First Appellate Authority,
The Managing Director,
Goa Industrial Development Corporation,
Patto, Panaji – Goa.
2. Public Information Officer,
The Chief General Manager,
Goa Industrial Development Corporation,
Patto, Panaji – Goa.

..... Respondents.

CORAM:

Shri A. Venkataratnam
State Chief Information Commissioner
&
Shri G. G. Kambli
State Information Commissioner

(Per A. Venkataratnam)

Dated: 25/06/2008.

ORDER

Appellant is present in person. Respondent No. 1 is represented by Law Officer, Shri. Mandar Shirodkar. Respondent No. 2 is present in person. Heard the arguments from both sides. Mr. Rony Dias, the Appellant insisted that the information as requested by him has to be either given to him under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act for short) or refused with reasons. The Public Information Officer has neither given the information nor refused the information. He has, instead, asked the Appellant by his letter dated 01/11/2007 to contact Mr. J. N. Chimulkar, General Manager (Engg) and Mr. William Borges, Dy. General Manager (Adm) to verify the records and ask for specific information, which the Appellant refused to do. On a first appeal to Respondent No. 1 herein, the first Appellate Authority, upheld the Public Information Officer's order that the Appellant should inspect the documents and ask for specific information. There is no such provision in the RTI Act to direct the citizens to approach the Public Authority and inspect the documents when the citizen has requested for specific information already. Neither the Public Information Officer

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nor the authorized representative of the first Appellate Authority could point out any provision in the RTI Act in support of their view. We, therefore, have no hesitation in setting aside both the letter of the Public Information Officer dated 01/11/2007 and the order dated 08/01/2008 of the Respondent No. 1. The Respondent No. 2 is hereby directed to give the information within 3 weeks from the date of the pronouncement of this order.

Order announced in open court on 25/06/2008.

Sd/-
(A. Venkataratnam)
State Chief Information Commissioner

Sd/-
(G. G. Kambli)
State Information Commissioner