

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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

Appeal No. 15/2007-08/VP

Shri Pascoal X. Sequeira
H. No. 865, Naikawaddo,
Aldona - Goa.

..... Appellant.

V/s.

1. Public Information Officer,
The Secretary,
Village Panchayat of Aldona,
Aldona, Bardez - Goa.
2. First Appellate Authority,
Block Development Officer,
Bardez Taluka, Mapusa - Goa.

..... Respondents.

CORAM:

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

(Per A. Venkataratnam)

Dated: 16/08/2007.

The Appellant and both the Respondents in person.

ORDER

Briefly stated the facts are that the Appellant by his request dated 31/01/2007 under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (hereinafter referred to as the RTI Act), requested information on two points. The first is about the action taken by the Respondent No. 1 to get the compound wall of the Appellant repainted by one Mr. T. A. Fernandes, who according to the Appellant defaced the compound wall earlier. The Appellant also asked for a copy of the inspection report conducted by the then Sarpanch of the Village Panchayat of Aldona in connection with the same matter. The inspection was said to have been conducted on 20/01/2007. There was no reply from the Respondent No. 1 within the statutory time period. On 4th of April, 2007, the Appellant moved his first appeal to the Respondent No. 2 who passed his order on 3/5/2007 directing the Respondent No. 1 to furnish the information within 30 days. On 18th May, 2007, the reply was given by the Respondent No. 1 to the effect that there was no

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inspection report available on records of the Village Panchayat as it was not prepared at the time of site inspection. He did not, however, mention anything about the action taken by the Panchayat on the complaint/request of the Appellant to get his compound wall repainted.

2. On the notices having been issued, all the parties remained present and the Respondent No. 1 has filed his reply to the Commission with a copy to the Appellant. He has reiterated what he has stated in the reply given by him to the Appellant.

3. There is no question of giving any inspection report which was not prepared by the inspection officials initially. Regarding the other point, we are not aware whether it is the duty of the Village Panchayat of Aldona to get the compound wall repainted by a person said to have defaced it. However, we do not find any reason why the correct position of law as well as the action taken or not taken by the Village Panchayat should not be intimated to the Appellant.

4. We, therefore, direct the Respondent No. 1 who is the Public Information Officer, in this case, to give a reply to the first query of the Appellant within the 10 days from the receipt of this order.

Announced in open court on this 16th day of August, 2007.

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

Sd/-
(G. G. Kampli)
State Information Commissioner, GOA.

/sf.
sf./km.