

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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

Penalty Case No. 05/2007-08

In

Appeal No. 03/2007-08

Smt. Surekha S. Bute
Zoidervaddo, P. O. Aldona,
Nachinola - Goa.

..... Appellant.

V/s.

1. Public Information Officer,
Dy. Conservator of Forests (North),
Ponda - Goa.
2. First Appellate Authority,
Conservator of Forests,
Office of the Chief Conservator
of Forests, Panaji - Goa.

..... Respondents.

CORAM:

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

(Per G. G. Kambli)

Dated: 16/08/2007.

ORDER

The Range Forest Officer, Panaji was treated as a Public Information Officer and he was directed to show cause as to why the penalty of Rs.250/- per day delay should not be imposed on him under Section 20 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (for short the Act). The Respondents filed the reply stating that the application dated 7/11/2006 of the Appellant was received by him through the Respondent No. 1 on 29/11/2006. The Range Forest Officer immediately obtained the information from the Round Forester, Bardez with whom the information was available and forwarded the same to the Respondent No. 1 i.e. Public Information Officer on 30/11/2006 and the same was received by the Public Information Officer on 1/12/2006. The Range Forest Officer has clarified that no survey was conducted and therefore, there was no survey report. This fact was within the knowledge of the Public Information Officer, as

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there exist only one Surveyor attached to the office of the Public Information Officer. The services of the Surveyor can be requisitioned only from the Respondent No. 1.

2. The Range Forest Officer, therefore, submitted that he is not at all responsible for the delay, as the Respondent No. 1 could have provided the information to the Appellant immediately on receipt of the information from the Range Forest Officer on 1/12/2006.

3. Thus, it will be seen that the Range Forest Officer acted immediately and provided the information to the Respondent No. 1 immediately. In fact, there has been a delay from the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests in forwarding the application to the Respondent No. 1 i.e. Public Information Officer.

4. In these circumstances, we drop the proceedings against the Range Forest Officer, Panaji.

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

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

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

/sf.
sf/km.