

## **GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**

"Kamat Towers" 7th Floor, Patto Plaza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001

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### **Appeal No. 227/2025/SCIC**

Shri Viraj Vishnu Bakre,  
H. No. 317, Devlay,  
Candola, Marcela P.O.  
Ponda Taluka Goa 403107.

..... Appellant

v/s

1. The Public Information Officer,  
Head Clerk, Panchayat Section,  
Directorate of Panchayats,  
Panaji – Goa.

2. The First Appellate Authority,  
Block Development Officer-I (HQ),  
Panchayat Section, Directorate of Panchayats,  
Panaji – Goa.

..... Respondents

**Shri Aravind Kumar H. Nair - State Chief Information Commissioner**

### **RELEVANT FACTS OF THE APPEAL**

RTI application filed on	- 02-05-2025
Respondent PIO reply	- 27-05-2025
First Appeal filed on	- 11-06-2025
First Appellate order on	- 02-07-2025
<b>Second appeal received on</b>	- 01-10-2025
<b>First hearing on</b>	- 04-11-2025
<b>Decided on</b>	- 04-11-2025

### **Information Sought and Background of the Appeal**

1. Shri Viraj Vishnu Bakre filed an RTI application dated 02/05/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 to the PIO, Office of the Directorate of Panchayats, Panaji seeking following information :
  - i. *"Provide the provisions in the Goa Panchayati Raj Act 1994 & Rules regarding inspection to be conducted by Village Panchayat Secretary while processing file pertaining to construction License issuance formalities*
  - ii. *Provide provisions in Goa Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 & Rules stipulating that the elected representative (i.e. Ward Panch) must accompany V.P.*

*Secretary during the inspection conducted as part of processing the construction License issuance formalities*

*iii. Provide the Goa Government Gazette Notification or Office Memorandum, if any, issued with respect to Point No. 2”.*

2. In response to the RTI application, PIO, Directorate of Panchayats vide letter dated 27/05/2025 replied to the Appellant as under –

*“With regard to your 03-point RTI application, you are hereby informed to refer Goa Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 and Rules which is available on public domain free of cost on their website [www.panchayatsgoa.gov.in](http://www.panchayatsgoa.gov.in)”*

3. Being aggrieved by the reply furnished by the PIO, appellant filed first appeal dated 11/06/2025 before the First Appellate Authority stating that Respondent PIO has not provided information sought vide RTI application dated 30/04/2025.

4. FAA (BDO-I/HQ, Panchayat Section, Directorate of Panchayats) vide order dated 02/07/2025 dismissed the appellant’s first appeal stating that action of the Respondent PIO is consonance with the RTI Act.

5. Subsequently appellant preferred second appeal dated 01/10/2025 before the Commission praying that Respondent PIO be directed to provide information sought vide RTI application dated 30/04/2025.

### **FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING**

6. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal by the Appellant, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 04/11/2025 for which Appellant and representative of the Respondent PIO present. Respondent PIO in the written reply to the appeal memo submitted that in response to the RTI application, Appellant was duly informed to refer Goa Panchayati Raj Act 1994 & Rules, which are available in public domain.

**DECISION**

**After considering the original RTI application of the appellant, Respondent PIO's reply and the arguments placed before the Commission by the parties to the appeal, Commission decided to dispose the present appeal with the direction to the Respondent PIO to furnish specific and point-wise reply/information supported by Gazette Notification or Circulars etc. if any, to the appellant within seven days from the receipt of this order.**

**Matter disposed. Proceedings stand closed.**

- Pronounced in the open court.
- Notify the parties.

*Aggrieved party if any, may move against this order by way of a Writ Petition as no further Appeal is provided against this order under the Right to Information Act, 2005.*

Sd/-

**( ARAVIND KUMAR H. NAIR )**  
State Chief Information Commissioner, GSIC