

ACTION HISTORY OF RTI REQUEST No.FSOID/R/P/25/00023

Applicant Name Sh. Ganpat V. Sidhaye
Text of Application Please find attachment
Reply of Application Please find attachment for sought information.

SN.	Action Taken	Date of Action	Action Taken By	Remarks
1	RTI REQUEST RECEIVED	20/08/2025	Sugandha Srivastava-(CPIO)	
2	REQUEST DISPOSED OF	11/09/2025	Sugandha Srivastava-(CPIO)	

[Print](#)

Email

06 AUG 2025 1237

10204-TF1
14/08/25

DG FSI

Transfer of RTI Application dated 11/11/2024 filed by Shri. Ganpat V. Sidhaye under Section 6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005 regarding forest data.

From : DCF Working Plan <dcfwp-forest.goa@nic.in>

Wed, Aug 06, 2025 11:28 AM

Subject : Transfer of RTI Application dated 11/11/2024 filed by Shri. Ganpat V. Sidhaye under Section 6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005 regarding forest data.

1 attachment

To : DG FSI <dgfsi@fsi.nic.in>

DD (FI)
A

Sir/ Madam,

Please find attached herewith the Transfer of RTI Application dated 11/11/2024 filed by Shri. Ganpat V. Sidhaye **under Section 6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005** regarding forest data.

With Warm Regards,
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Working Plan Division,
Altinho-Goa.

23/08/25
14/8/25
RTI Cell -

RTI.pdf
3 MB



**Government of Goa
Office of The Dy. Conservator of Forests
Working Plan Division
"Goa Van Bhavan"
Altinho Panaji Goa - 403 001**

No. DCF(WP)/RTI-105 /50(P)/2025-26/570

Dated: - 01/08/2025

To,
✓ The Public Information Officer,
Forest Survey of India,
Kaulagarh Road,
Dehradun - 248195, Uttarakhand.

Sub: Transfer of RTI Application dated 11/11/2024 filed by Shri Ganpat V. Sidhaye under Section 6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005 - regarding forest data.

Ref: 1. RTI Application dated 11/11/2024 & 07/01/2025 received from Shri Ganpat V. Sidhaye.

2. Order dated 30/07/2025 in Appeal No. 79/2025/SCIC by the Goa State Information Commission (GSIC), Panaji-Goa.

Sir/Madam,

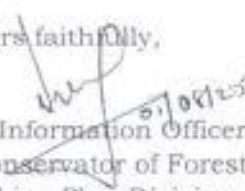
With reference to the subject cited above, the RTI application dated 11/11/2024 and 07/01/2025 submitted by Shri Ganpat V. Sidhaye, R/o H.No. 45, Matavwada, Britona, Bardez-Goa 403101, is hereby transferred to your office under Section 6(3) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 under information to this office.

As per the order issued by the Goa State Information Commission in the above-mentioned appeal, it has been held that the information sought by the applicant pertains to data of the Forest Survey of India (FSI) and falls within your jurisdiction.

The RTI application is enclosed herewith for further necessary action at your end. You are kindly requested to respond to the applicant directly under the provisions of the RTI Act, under intimation to this office.

This is submitted for your kind consideration and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


Public Information Officer &
Dy. Conservator of Forests,
Working Plan Division,
Panaji-Goa.

Encl:

1. Original RTI application dated 11/11/2024 & 07/01/2025.
2. Copy of GSIC Order in Appeal No. 79/2025/SCIC dated 30/07/2025.

Copy to:

1. Shri Ganpat V. Sidhaye, H.No. 45, Matavwada, Britona, Bardez-Goa 403101 - for information and necessary facts.
2. The Goa State Information Commission, Panaji - for kind information with respect to order/decision dated 30/07/2025 in Appeal No. 79/2025/SCIC/1396.

Put up
①
11/11/2024
Arf



From:
Ganpat Sidhaye
House number 45
Matavwada, Britona,
Bardez Goa - 403101
Mobile: 9764148006
Date: 11/11/2024

To:
The Public Information Officer & DCF(WP)
Office of Chief Conservator of Forest Vanbhavan,
Altinho Panaji Goa.

Sub: Issue of information under Right to Information Act 2005

Sir,

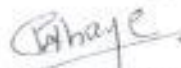
Kindly provide me following information

- 1) Inspection and issue of plans pertaining to private forest in village Penha de Franca Bardez Taluka identified by Sawant Karapurkar committee including adjoining survey number identified by Deepshikha Sharma committee and notified by the government in the official Gazette series II No. 25 dated 22/9/2022
- 2) Inspection and issue of plans pertaining to private forest in village Penha de Franca provisionally identified by Thomas committee as private forest and accepted as qualified by Review committee headed by chief Conservator of Forest Goa notified vide number DCF(WP)PVT. For/ 16 (THC)2013(WZ)/19-20/119 DATED 18/6/2020 in their part final reports uploaded on Forest Department site excluding area given under Para 1
- 3) Inspection and issue of parameters as recorded by field and office team of the review committee which were considered for deleting survey numbers pertaining to private forest in village Penha de Franca provisionally identified by Thomas committee as private forest and not accepted as qualified by Review committee headed by chief Conservator of Forest Goa notified vide number referred in para 2 above in their part final reports. (for example if sur. no 184 is not qualifying as private forest canopy density, area and forestry tree species noted and verified by concern teams may be furnished).

I am citizen of India and Rs.10/- court fee stamp is attached to the application.

Office of the	
Dy. Conservator of Forests	
Working in	
Attn: Mr.	1998
Initials	19
Page No.	
Dated	11/11/2024

Yours faithfully,


(Ganpat Sidhaye)

Team: Ganpat Sidhaye
H No 45, Matawada.
Britona Bardez-Goa.
Mob. 9764148006
Date 7/01/2025

To,
The Public Information Officer
Office of the Dy. Conservator of Forest
Working plan division
Goa bhavan Attinhe
Panaji Goa

Sub: RTE-2025
Ref: NO DCF (WP) RTE-105/2024-25/766 dt 20/12/2024

Sr.
With reference to the above and my letter
dt 18/12/2024, inspection was conducted
on 7/01/2025. You are requested to issue
certified copy of FSI data to the
State survey numbers pertaining
to Penha de França village.

Yours faithfully,
Sidhaye

Put up

9/1/25

13/01/2025
H.C.

2462
77
07/01/2025

289
9/1/25

Appeal No. 79/2025/SCIC/138

Shri Ganpat V Sidhaye,
H.No. 45, Matavwada,
Near Shambho, Mahadev Temple,
Britona, Bardez-Goa 403101.

-----Appellant

V/s

- 1.The Public Information Officer,
Office of Chief Conservator Forest,
Working Plan Division,
Goa Van Bhavan,
Altinho, Panaji-Goa 403001.
- 2.The Public Information Officer,
Office of the Dy. Conservator of Forest,
North Goa Division,
Ponda Goa 403401.



-----Respondents

To,

- 1)Shri Ganpat V Sidhaye,
H.No. 45, Matavwada,
Near Shambho, Mahadev Temple,
Britona, Bardez-Goa 403101.
- 2)The Public Information Officer,
Office of Chief Conservator Forest,
Working Plan Division,
Goa Van Bhavan,
Altinho, Panaji-Goa 403001.
- 3)The Public Information Officer,
Office of the Dy. Conservator of Forest,
North Goa Division,
Ponda Goa 403401.

Office of the	
Dy. Conservator of Forests	
Working Plan Division	
Altinho	
Inw No.	1139
Page No.	22
Dated	11/8/2025

Put up letter below
and transfer application
accordingly.

10/8/25
HLC

Whereas the Appellant above named has filed to this Commission, the above Appeal No.79/2025/SCIC under Right to Information Act, 2005.

And Whereas, the above matter came up for hearing before this Commission (Coram: Aravind Kumar H. Nair, SCIC) on 08/07/2025;

And upon hearing both the parties, this Commission has passed the Order and an authenticated copy of which is enclosed herewith for necessary action.

Given under my hand and seal on this day of 30th July 2025.

By Order of Commission,

(Avit S. Naik)

Under Secretary cum Registrar, GSIC

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

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

E-mail: spio-gsic.goa@nic.in Website: www.scic.goa.gov.in

Appeal No. 79/2025/SCIC

Shri Ganpat V. Sidhaye,
H. No. 45, Matawada,
Near Shambho Mahadev Temple,
Britona, Bardez-Goa 403101.

-----Appellant

V/s

1.The Public Information Officer,
Office of Chief Conservator Forest,
Working Plan Division,
Goa Van Bhavan,
Altinho, Panaji-Goa 403001.



2.The Public Information Officer,
Office of the Dy. Conservator of Forest,
North Goa Division,
Ponda Goa 403401.

---Respondents

Shri. ARAVIND KUMAR H. NAIR - State Chief Information Commissioner, GSIC

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	- 11/11/2024
PIO replied on	- 20/11/2024
First Appeal filed on	- 18/12/2024
First Appellate order on	- 06/02/2025
Second appeal received on	- 24/02/2025
Decision of the Second Appeal on	- 08/07/2025

Information sought and background of the Appeal

1. Shri. Ganpat V. Sidhaye filed an application dated 11/11/2024 under RTI Act, 2005 to the PIO, O/o the Dy. Conservator of Forests, Working Plan Division, Goa Van Bhavan seeking following information :

- i. *"Inspection and issue of plans pertaining to private forest in Village Penha De Franca, Bardez Taluka identified by Sawant Karapurkar committee and notified by the Government in the Official Gazette Series II, No. 25 dated 22/09/2022.*
- ii. *Inspection and issue of plans pertaining to private forest in Village Penha De Franca provisionally identified by Thomas Committee as private forest and accepted as qualified by Review Committee headed*

by Chief Conservator of Forest, Goa and notified vide dated 18/06/2020 in the part final reports uploaded on Forest Department site.

- iii. *Inspection and issue of parameters as recorded by field and office team of the review committee which were considered for deleting survey numbers pertaining to the private forest in Village Penha De Franca."*



2. In response to the RTI application, PIO (Dy. Conservator of Forests, Working Plan Division, Panaji) vide letter dated 20/11/2024 replied to the Appellant as under :

"Query No.1 -	Transferred to Dy. Conservator of Forest(N).
Query No.2 -	Review is in progress.
Query No. 3 -	You may visit this office on any working days."

3. With reference to the above said letter, Appellant visited the office of the PIO on 17/12/2024 and subsequently vide letter dated 18/12/2024 submitted Survey Numbers 46,110,114-116,133-135, 139-140, 146-147, 149-51, 181-184, 186-191 and 52 to provide information (inspection and issue of parameters).
4. Appellant then filed first appeal dated 06/02/2025 before the First Appellate Authority (Conservator of Forests) stating that when the Appellant visited the office of the Respondent No.1, he was asked to submit specific survey numbers on which information is required and accordingly a letter dated 18/12/2024 was submitted to the Respondent PIO specifying the survey numbers. According to Appellant after lot of pursuance, he was allowed inspection on 07/01/2025 and based on inspection, a letter dated 07/01/2025 submitted to the Respondent No.1 to issue certified copy of FSI data to the survey numbers pertaining to Penha De Franca Village. However, no information is provided till date. Respondent No.2 also not provided information. Appellant prayed before the FAA to direct Respondent No.1 and 2 to furnish necessary information.

5. FAA (Conservator of Forests) vide order dated 24/02/2024 directed Respondent No.1 (PIO/Dy. Conservator of Forests, Working Plan Division) to provide the relevant communication dated 31/01/2025 by today to Appellant and Respondent No. 2 (PIO/Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division) to re-issue the notice to inspection by fixing a reasonable time limit.



6. It may be mentioned that the Respondent No.1 vide letter dated 30/01/2025 (which is referred in the FAA's order) informed the Applicant as under :

"The Forest cover map has been prepared on composite basis by Forest Survey of India (FSI). As many survey numbers in the sought map is yet to be reviewed by the Review Committee, sought information cannot be provided in isolation for reviewed survey numbers alone as mother data layer is not available with this Department."

7. As per the material available before the Commission, copy of the Official Gazette, Government of Goa, Series No. 25, dated 22nd September, 2022 containing details of Survey Numbers identified as private forests having an area of 46.11 sq. km and accepted by Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 18/08/2020 in original Application No. 479/2018 and copy of an interim report of Review Committee on Review of Private Forest Areas identified by North Goa and South Goa District Committee also attached with the present appeal by the Appellant.

8. Appellant the approached the Commission with Second appeal dated 26/03/2025 stating that information sought is about private forest and total 46.11 sq.km area is notified in the Official Gazette, Series II dated 22/09/2022. Survey Numbers pertaining to Penha De Franca are at Page 14. As the plans are already available with the department, the same should be issued to the Appellant. Appellant prayed before the Commission that Respondent be directed to provide necessary information without further delay.

Facts Emerging in Course of Hearing

9. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 21/05/2025 for which Appellant and Respondent No.1 appeared in person but Respondent No. 2 was represented by APIO and ACF, North Goa Division, Ponda. Respondent No.1 filed submission along with enclosures with an additional copy of the Appellant.
10. Representative of Respondent No. 2 filed reply dated 20/12/2024 sent to the Appellant in response to the RTI application received on transfer from Respondent No.1 Presiding Commissioner directed the representative of the Respondent No.2 to provide inspection by the Appellant at the office of the Respondent No. 2 on May 30, 2025.
11. Respondent No.1 in the written reply dated 21/05/2025 submitted that :
- a. Inspection and issue of plans pertaining to private forest in Village Penha De Franca, Bardez Taluka Identified by Sawant Karapurkar Committee are notified by the Government in the Gazette, Series II No. 25 dated 22/09/2022.
 - b. Inspection and issue of plans pertaining to private forest in Village Penha De Franca provisionally identified by Thomas committee as private forest and accepted as qualified by review committee in their final reports uploaded on Forest Department site excluding area given in above para.
 - c. Upon verification and inspection of available records by the Appellant on 07/01/2025, further requested to provide Forest Survey of India data for survey numbers pertaining to Penha De Franca Village vide letter dated 07/01/2025.
 - d. The forest cover map has been prepared on composite basis by Forest Survey of India (FSI). Since many survey numbers in the sought map are yet to be reviewed by the review committee, the sought information cannot be provided in isolation for review survey number alone as mother data layer is not available with the Forest

Department. In addition, review work of private forest is still under examination.

- e. The FCM shared with the Forest Department, Goa is not available in public domain and is protected under the 'Intellectual Property Law' so the question of denying the information intentionally by Respondent 1 does not arise.

12. Respondent No.2 filed a copy of the letter dated 20/12/2024 replying to the Appellant as under :

"Since the information asked for is voluminous in nature, you may inspect the file on a convenient date and working hours by intimating the office in advance."

13. Matter was called out for hearing on 16/06/2025. Appellant filed written submission stating that FCM does not falls under the Intellectual Property Law and Forest Survey of India is a government entity and the data collected or prepared is by using public fund and public machinery. Hence cannot be denied unless the same falls under the 'secret' documents pertaining to the defence and interest of the country. Appellant further submitted that the Respondents have deleted and included private forest areas of the state on the basis of the criteria of areas and forest canopy density and the public has full right to know whether the exercise has been done properly or not.

14. Matter was called out for final hearing on 08/07/2025 for which Respondents and Appellant appeared in person.

Respondent No.1 (PIO, Dy. Conservator of Forest Working Plan Division) submitted that the information sought by the Appellant pertains to the Forest Survey of India (FSI) data. The information supplied to the Respondent by the FSI was on a confidential basis and hence Respondent is unable to unilaterally disclose it to the Appellant. Respondent further submitted that :

- i. The information sought by the Appellant specifically concerning survey numbers of Village Penha De Franca of Bardez taluka is an



Integral part of the larger Forest Survey of India data for the state of Goa.

- 
- ii. It is crucial to note that the review of private forest survey numbers provisionally identified by Thomas and Araujo Committees within the State of Goa is currently incomplete and under progress.
 - iii. Since the Forest Survey of India has provided the Respondent with a comprehensive Forest Cover Image of Goa State, which in its current form due to the ongoing review process cannot be shared as a standalone or disaggregated piece of information without potentially compromising the ongoing survey and review.
 - iv. The requested information cannot be provided by the Respondent at this juncture due to its confidential nature and ongoing review process. Hence the appropriate authority to address such a request would be the Public Information Officer, Forest Survey of India and the applicant is very well aware of the same.

DECISION

- i. Besides written submission by the Appellant and Respondents to the present appeal, arguments held in detail on the information sought by the Appellant vide RTI application dated 11/11/2024. During the course of proceedings, Respondent No.1 (PIO, Dy. Conservator of Forest, Working Plan Division, Panaji, Goa) made it emphatically clear that the information sought by the Appellant pertains to the Forest Survey of India (FSI) data. Since the information sought by the Appellant is an integral part of the larger Forest Survey of India data for the State of Goa and the same cannot be provided to the Appellant by the Respondent at this juncture due to confidentiality of the sought data and the ongoing review process, there is no other option but to transfer the Appellant's original RTI application to the Public Information Officer, Forest Survey of India u/s 6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005.
- 

- ii. The Respondent No. 1 (PIO, Dy. Conservator Forest, Working Plan Division, Panaji, Goa) hereby directed to transfer the RTI application dated 11/11/2024 to the PIO, FSI, Dehradun within five days from the receipt of this order with a copy of the Appellant compliance report to the Commission accordingly.

Matter disposed. Proceedings in the present Appeal No.79/2025/SCIC stands closed.

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.

- Proceeding stands closed.
- Pronounced in open Court.
- Notify the parties.

Authenticated by

Under Secretary, Registrar
Goa State Information Commission
(Panaji - Goa)

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

RTI MATTER
SPEED POST

संख्या-13-2 / 2025-RTI -2254

भारत सरकार
भारतीय वन सर्वेक्षण
पे0ऑ0-आई0पी0ई0, कौलागढ़ मार्ग
देहरादून-248195

दिनांक: ॥ सितम्बर, 2025

सेवा में,

Sh. Ganpat V. Sidhaye
H.No.-45, Matavwada,
Near Shambho, Mahadev Temple,
Britona, Bardez, Goa 403101.

Sub:- Information under RTI Act, 2005.

महोदय,

उपरोक्त विषय के संदर्भ में यह सूचित किया जाता है कि आपके आर.टी.आई. आवेदन दिनांक 11.11.2024 के द्वारा मांगी गई सूचना के संबंध में यह कहना है कि आपके पत्र द्वारा मांगी गयी सूचना भारतीय वन सर्वेक्षण, देहरादून में उपलब्ध नहीं है।

2. यदि आप इस उत्तर से संतुष्ट नहीं हैं तो इस पत्र की प्राप्ति की तिथि से तीस दिनों के भीतर आप निम्नांकित प्रथम अपीलीय प्राधिकारी के समक्ष अपील दायर कर सकते हैं।

श्रीमती मीरा अय्यर (प्रथम अपीलीय अधिकारी),
भारतीय वन सर्वेक्षण,
कौलागढ़ मार्ग, देहरादून-248195
फोन नं०:- 01352755037

भवदीया,



(गिरिजा अरोड़ा)

सहायक लोक सूचना अधिकारी

प्रतिलिपि:- CPIO, O/o of the Dy. Conservator of Forest, Working Plan Division, Goa Van
Bhavan, Altinho, Panaji-Goa 403001.