

**BEFORE THE GOA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**PANAJI – GOA**

**Proceeding No.57/2024**

Suo Motu

V/s

The Principal Chief Engineer,  
Public Works Department,  
Altinho, Panaji-Goa.

**INQUIRY REPORT**

(11<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

This proceeding commenced on 28/02/2024, on the Commission taking suo motu cognizance of the newspaper reports of 'Herald' and 'The Navhind Times', about the shortage of water in the taps in Majorda, Calata and at Chapora, Assagao and Anjuna.

2. By Order dated 28/02/2024, the Commission had issued notice to the Respondent to submit their report.

3. The Respondent submitted their report on 11/03/2024.

4. At this stage, Ms. Sharlet Fernandes, Panch, of Ward No. IX, of Utorda, Majorda, remained present and also submitted a copy of the letter dated 26/12/2023, to the Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department, Margao, regarding the problem faced by the villagers due to the water supply.

5. The Commission heard the Respondent and Ms. Sharlet Fernandes.

6. The Newspapers had reported that several families have to buy water to drink in Majorda and Calata and so also, at Chapora, Assagao and Anjuna, there has been a month long water scarcity.

7. The Commission has considered the report submitted by the Respondent. In respect of the water supplied to Majorda, Calata

and Utorda, they stated that the affected area is at the tail end of the system and many of the houses have metallic (GI) connections which are very old and corroded and this is the main reason for low supply. They stated that the Department offered to lay common pipelines for the benefit of four houses and to facilitate replacement of service connection pipelines but due to some local dispute, the matter was pending.

8. In respect of the water supply at Chapora, Assagao and Anjuna, the Respondent stated that they are in the process of constructing the water treatment plant at Assagao and augmentation of the Assonora Water Treatment Plant by 30 MLD, which are to be completed by December 2024.

9. The Commission also heard Ms. Sharlet Fernandes, who submitted that there is a pipeline of higher diameter running parallel through the Francisco Costa Ward and Loyola Ward in Utorda, which are the hard hit areas and water connection can be given to the locals from the higher diameter pipelines.

10. As water is a basic necessity and a human right of the citizens, the Commission considers the need for making recommendations for resolving the shortage of water faced by the villagers in these areas.

11. Accordingly, the Commission recommends that in the affected areas of Utorda, the Respondent ensures that the villagers in the Francisco Costa Ward and Loyola Ward, being part of Ward No. IX, are assisted with connections from the pipeline of higher diameter running parallel through these wards.

So also, the Commission recommends that the Respondent facilitate the villagers in the said areas for replacement of service connection through UPVC pipelines, in place of the existing metallic (GI) pipelines, within 60 days from today.

The Commission further recommends that in respect of the areas of Assagao, Chapora and Anjuna, the work on the construction of 5.6 MLD Water Treatment Plant at Sonarkhed, Assagao and augmentation of Assonora Water Treatment Plant by 30 MLD be completed by the end of December 2024.

12. Under Section 18(e) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, the Commission shall send a copy of the Inquiry Report together with its recommendations to the concerned Government or authority and they shall, within a period of one month or such further time as the Commission may allow, forward its comments on the report, including the action taken or proposed to be taken, to the Commission.

13. Copy of the Inquiry Report be sent to the Respondent, calling for their comments, including the action taken or proposed to be taken, on or before 13/05/2024, in respect of Utorda area and on or before 31/12/2024, in respect of Chapora, Assagao and Anjuna, in terms of Section 18(e) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

Date : 11/03/2024

Place : Panaji-Goa.

Sd/-  
(Desmond D'Costa)  
Acting Chairperson/Member  
Goa Human Rights Commission

Sd/-  
(Prmod V. Kamat)  
Member  
Goa Human Rights Commission