



Esha

IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA
WRIT PETITION NO.222 OF 2026

MANCIO JOAQUIM MONTEIRO

... PETITIONER

Versus

THE STATE OF GOA THR ITS CHIEF
SECRETARY AND 8 ORS

... RESPONDENTS

Mr. Vibhav Amonkar and Mr. Omkar Bhawe, Advocates for the
Petitioner.

Mr. Neehal Vernekar, Additional Government Advocate for
Respondent Nos. 1, 2 and 4.

Mr. B. Fatarpekar, Advocate for Respondent No. 3.

Mr. Eeshan Usapkar, Advocate for Respondent Nos. 5 to 9.

**CORAM:- VALMIKI MENEZES &
AMIT S. JAMSANDEKAR, JJ.**

DATED :- 21st April, 2026

P.C:

We have noted in our order dated 23.03.2026 that the Petitioner's first complaint, alleging illegal construction carried by Respondent Nos. 5 to 9 (which includes the Sarpanch-Respondent No. 8) was made on 15.12.2023. The second complaint was lodged on 18.09.2024 and the site inspection was conducted only on 05.11.2024. Till date, no action has been taken by the Village Panchayat.

2. Though the Panchayat is represented by a Counsel, despite our request, the Secretary of the Village Panchayat of St. Estevam has remained absent.

3. Today, the learned Counsel appearing for the Panchayat states that even though no show cause notice has been issued till date, such notice would be issued by 24.04.2026. He makes a statement on instructions that no license has been issued to the construction carried out by Respondent Nos. 5 to 9.

4. Considering that the various Secretaries of the Village Panchayat of St. Estevam during the period from 15.12.2023 (i.e. from the date when the first complaint was made) till date, have neither taken any action on the complaints nor had even issued a show cause notice despite knowing that the structure in question was unlicensed, we are of the view that the Director of Panchayats should inquire into the circumstances under which the Secretaries, who held the post during this period, acted in a manner contrary to Section 47 of the Goa Panchayat Raj Act, 1994.

5. The Director of Panchayats to conduct an inquiry against all the Secretaries who have held the post of the Secretary of the Village Panchayat of St. Estevam during this period and shall proceed to such action as he deems fit. The inquiry shall be concluded preferably by 04.05.2026 and report to that effect shall be placed before this Court on 05.05.2026.

6. The present Secretary of the Village Panchayat of St. Estevam

shall file an affidavit in reply to the Petition so also, Respondent Nos. 5 to 9 if they so wish, shall file their reply by the next date. List on 05.05.2026.

AMIT S. JAMSANDEKAR, J. VALMIKI MENEZES, J.