

**BEFORE THE APPELLATE AUTHORITY
(Under the Right to Information Act, 2005)
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA**

Appeal No. 5875 of 2024

Ravi Luthra	:	Appellant
Vs		
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated December 12, 2023 (received by the respondent through RTI MIS Portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated December 21, 2023 responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/23/00256) dated December 21, 2023. I have carefully considered the application, the response and the appeal and find that the matter can be decided based on the material available on record.
2. **Requests made in the application** –The appellant, vide his application dated December 12, 2023 sought the following information:

“1. Copy of the order dated 28th August 2020 passed by SEBI while disposing the complaint filed by Mr. Rakesh Kumar Lal against Vatika Ltd on Scores Platform.

2. Copy of the order dated 07th October 2020 passed by SEBI while disposing the complaint filed by Mr. Rakesh Kumar Lal against Vatika Ltd on Scores Platform.”
3. **Reply of the Respondent** - The respondent informed the appellant that the information sought does not pertain to him. Hence, the information sought relates to personal information, the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest and may cause unwarranted invasion into the privacy of the individual. The same is, therefore, exempt in terms of Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005.
4. **Ground of appeal**- The appellant has filed the appeal on the ground that he is refused access to information requested.

5. I have perused the request and the response provided thereto. I note that that the respondent has denied the requested information under section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act. I note that the information sought does not pertain to the appellant and pertains to SCORES complaints filed by one Mr. Rakesh Kumar Lal. In my opinion, providing information regarding the same would reveal personal information pertaining to the complainant. The appellant, in support of his appeal, has submitted that any order passed by any adjudicating authority must become public document as it can act as a precedent for future. I note that the appellant, in his application has sought information pertaining to complaints filed on SCORES platform, which is an online platform for grievance redressal pertaining to securities market against listed companies and SEBI registered intermediaries. The redressal received in the said platform are not quasi-judicial in nature. Hence, the aforesaid submission of the appellant does not hold good in the said matter. Accordingly, I note that the appellant has failed to established larger public interest in the extant matter. In this context, I note that in the matter of *Chandrakant Kantilal Patel vs. CPIO, SEBI* (order dated December 27, 2022) the appellant had sought copies of complaints filed against Aakruti Nirmiti Ltd. The Hon'ble Central Information Commission (hereinafter referred to as "CIC"), in the said matter, *inter alia*, observed that the RTI application clearly reveals that the information sought is related to a third party as defined under section 2(n) of the RTI Act. Further, the complainants who filed complaints against Aakruti Nirmiti Limited, are all third parties. The Hon'ble CIC also relied on the judgement dated November 13, 2019 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of *CPIO, Supreme Court of India vs. Subhash Chandra Agarwal* and held that the information sought was not disclosable under section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act and that the appellant could not establish larger public interest in that case. Based on the aforesaid discussions, I am of the opinion that the respondent was right in claiming exemption under section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act.
6. In view of the above observations, I find that there is no need to interfere with the decision of the respondent. The Appeal is accordingly dismissed.

Place: Mumbai

Date: January 8, 2024

B RAJENDRAN
APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE RTI ACT
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA