

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

Appeal No. 5753 of 2023

Noushad Ali	:	Appellant
	Vs	
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated June 09, 2023 (received by the respondent through RTI MIS Portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated July 04, 2023 responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/23/00162) dated July 15, 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. **Queries in the application** –The appellant, vide his application dated June 09, 2023, *inter alia*, sought the following information:
 1. *Whether the land located in Haridwar of Uttarakhand, NH 58 village – Bahadarbad and Ranipur , Tehsil- Jawalpur, District- Haridwar which is about 555 bigha i.e 82.93 Acres, have been sold by Sahara group or associates companies?*
 2. *If the said the land has been sold, has the amount received from the sale of the land been deposited in the SEBI – Sahara agro account as per an order of the Hon’ble Supreme Court?*
 3. *If the said land was sold by Sahara group or related companies/ associated firms, then under the supervision of which officer or committee of SEBI, the same was done?*
 4. *If the said land was sold by Sahara group or related companies / associated firms, then provide information regarding the amount of money received and when it was sold. Also provide documents related to sale?*
 5. *Amount earned from the said land being sold by Sahara group and related company has been received from which company / firms?*
 6. *So far in the whole country Sahara Group and related companies and firms have sold how many land properties in how many cities and how much has been deposited in the SEBI- Sahara Agro Account?*

3. The respondent, in response to the queries informed regarding the order dated November 21, 2013 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court wherein it was stated that "...Sahara Group of Companies shall not part with any movable and immovable properties until further orders..." The respondent also informed regarding the order dated June 04, 2014 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide which the earlier order dated November 21, 2013 was modified. The respondent made reference to the order dated July 11, 2016, vide which the Hon'ble Supreme Court permitted Saharas to sell the properties owned by them subject to the condition that such sales are not for a price less than 90% of the circle rates stipulated for the area in which the properties are situated. The court also directed that the sale price so recovered by Saharas shall be deposited in entirety less expenses, TDS and all other applicable taxes in the SEBI Sahara Account. Further, the respondent also guided the appellant to access the orders passed by various courts in the matter.
4. **Ground of appeal-** On perusal of the appeal, it appears that the appellant is not satisfied with the response provided by the respondent. The appellant, in his appeal, *inter alia*, submitted that point wise information was not provided by the respondent.
5. I have perused the queries raised in the application and the response provided thereto. I note that the appellant has asked six separate questions relating to land sold by Sahara Group of companies and the respondent has given a common reply to the same. Further, the respondent has made reference to various orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. On consideration, I find that the reply of the respondent needs to be more specific. In view of the same, the respondent is directed to reconsider the queries point wise.
6. Considering the above observations, I remit the matter to the respondent for *de novo* consideration of the application dated June 09, 2023, and to send appropriate response to the appellant in terms of RTI Act, within 15 working days from the date of receipt of this order.
7. The Appeal is accordingly disposed of.

Place: Mumbai

Date: August 11, 2023

ANAND BAIWAR

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