

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

Appeal No. 6269 of 2025

Bidish Das : Appellant
Vs

CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai : Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated December 09, 2024 (received by the respondent through RTI MIS Portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated December 27, 2024, responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/24/00305) dated December 27, 2024. 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. **Ground of appeal** – The appellant has filed the appeal on the ground that he was provided incomplete, misleading or false information
3. **Queries in the application** - The appellant, vide his application dated December 09, 2024, sought the following information:

“ Q 1. Provide the Name of all those Examinations advertised/Notified/Published till date by SEBI for which compliance was made with DoP&T O.M NO. 39020/1/2016-ESTT. (B) DATED 21.06.2016 and DoP&T O.M NO. 39020/01/2016-Estt(B) Dated 19 July 2017

Q 2. Provide the Link (URL) of the webpage of SEBI where details of Scores/Rankings of all the candidates appearing in the final stage of each recruitment process is being displayed/made available in Compliance of DoP&T O.M NO. 39020/1/2016-ESTT. (B) DATED 21.06.2016 and DoP&T O.M NO. 39020/01/2016-Estt(B) Dated 19 July 2017”

4. **Reply of the Respondent** - The respondent, in response to queries in the application, informed that appellant's query is vague and not specific. Accordingly, the same cannot be construed as "information", as defined u/s 2(f) of the RTI Act. However, the respondent informed that the information pertaining to examination advertised by SEBI and its results is available on SEBI website under "career" section.

5. I have perused the application and the response provided thereto. I concur with the response of the respondent that the appellant's queries are vague, broad and not specific. It is an established law that the information sought for in order to be disclosable under the RTI Act, must be clear, specific and available in the records of the public authority. In this context, I note that the Hon'ble Central Information Commission in the matter of *Ms. Sarika Jain vs National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited* (order dated April 25, 2014) held that "*As regards the first part i.e. copies of all documents in relation to the contracts mentioned in the RTI application, the Commission finds that the term "all" used by the Appellant here is very vague and does not pin point the particular document she wants to obtain from the Respondents. The Appellant is, therefore, advised to be more specific and identify the documents she wants to obtain from the Respondents ...*". Further, the aforesaid queries also appear to be situational queries. In the context of seeking replies to situational queries, I note that the Hon'ble CIC, in the matter of *Mr. Mahendra Kumar Mehta vs. CPIO, SEBI* (Judgment dated April 12, 2021), held that: "*9. This Commission observes that the appellant herein attempts to seek legal opinion/clarification from the CPIO to his situational queries with regard to 'the circular, rules, regulations, notification etc. regarding trading member for taking stock in pledge, collateral, or security for providing margin to do trade in reference to derivatives segment, charging of interest and GST, precaution to be taken by trading member for protection of constituents individual/HUF etc.'*. Therefore, the CPIO is not supposed to interpret information; or to furnish replies to situational queries; or to furnish clarifications. Hence, such queries seeking legal opinion/clarification from the CPIO are not covered within the definition of 'information' u/Section 2(f) of the RTI Act, 2005. Accordingly, this Commission upholds the contention put forth by the CPIO." In view of these observations, I find that the appellant's queries cannot be construed as seeking 'information' as defined under section 2(f) of the RTI Act. Accordingly, I do not find any deficiency in the response.

6. Notwithstanding the above, I note that respondent has informed that that the information pertaining to examinations advertised by SEBI and its results are available on SEBI website under "career" section.

7. 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 20, 2025

RUCHI CHOJER

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