

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

Appeal No. 6032 of 2024

	:	Appellant
Subhash Chandra Agrawal		
	Vs	
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated May 19, 2024 (received by the respondent through RTI MIS Portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated May 30, 2024 responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/24/00117) dated June 09, 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. **Request in the application** - The appellant, vide his application dated May 19, 2024, sought the following information:
 - 1. Complete correspondence, file-notings, documents etc on SEBI having provision to open new DEMAT accounts in case a single DEMAT account into a joint DEMAT account unlike the system exists in banks where same single account can be converted into a joint DEMAT account*
 - 2. Complete information about bodies like Stock Exchange of India on which SEBI has any type of control and regulations*
 - 3. Complete information about bodies like Stock Exchange of India for which SEBI is regulatory public authority*
 - 4. Complete information on system of appointing Directors at Stock exchange of India including also Independent, nominated and other types of Directors*
 - 5. Complete information on last appointment of Directors at Stock exchange of India including also Independent, nominated and other types of Directors*
 - 6. Any other related information*
 - 7. File-notings on movement of this RTI application In case queries relate to some other public authority, transfer this RTI application there under section 6(3) of RTI Act under intimation to me.*
3. **Reply of the Respondent** - The respondent, in response to request nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 informed that the information sought is not clear/specific. Accordingly, the same cannot be construed as information under section 2(f) of RTI Act, 2005.

However, with respect to request no. 1, the respondent informed that SEBI guidelines with respect to opening of demat accounts are provided in SEBI Master Circular for Depositories dated Oct 06, 2023. The respondent provided the relevant link to access the said master circular on SEBI website. Additionally, with respect to requests nos. 2 and 3, the respondent informed that information pertaining to SEBI recognized Stock Exchanges is available on SEBI website. The respondent also provided the relevant link to access the same.

In response to request no. 4 of the application, the respondent informed that SEBI guidelines with respect to appointment of directors on the Governing Board of Stock Exchanges and Clearing corporations are provided in the Securities Contracts (Regulation) (Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations) Regulations, 2018. The respondent provided the relevant link to access the said regulations on SEBI website.

4. **Ground of appeal** - The appellant has filed the appeal on the ground that the information provided is incomplete, misleading or false information.
5. I have perused the request and the response provided thereto. On consideration, with respect to request nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7, I concur with the response of the respondent that the request is vague 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 in the matter of *Mr. T. V. Sundaresan vs. CPIO, Securities and Exchange Board of India* (Decision dated November 24, 2021), the Hon'ble Central Information Commission (hereinafter referred to as "**CIC**") held: *"The framework of the RTI Act, 2005 expects that the information sought is specific and believed to be existing with the public authority in documented or material form as such; which can be shared with the appellant as per the provisions of the RTI Act. Answering to broad, multiple and general queries and presumptive documents that should have been generated as per the expectation of the appellant cannot be furnished under the provisions of the Act."* Accordingly, I do not find any deficiency in the response of the respondent.
6. As regard, request no. 4, I find that the respondent has adequately addressed the said request by providing the information available with him. Accordingly, no further intervention of this forum is warranted.

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: June 20, 2024

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