

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

Appeal No. 6030 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 June 06, 2024 responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/24/00118) 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:

“Please provide me complete and detailed information together with all related file-notings, correspondence, documents etc on under-mentioned aspects

1. *Names of ten biggest companies/corporates etc against whom SEBI has issued notices for violation of norms and/or irregularities in last five years separately for each year mentioning also number of such notices year-wise issued to each of such companies/corporates and aspect for which respective notices were issued*
2. *Number of notices for violation of norms and/or irregularities in last five years separately for each year issued, if any, to under-mentioned corporates/companies etc*
 - a. *Tata group of companies*
 - b. *Adani group of companies*
 - c. *Reliance group of companies*
 - d. *Anil Dhirubhai Ambani group of companies*
 - e. *Kotak group of companies*
 - f. *Jindal steel Works*
 - g. *Jindal Steel and Power Limited*
 - h. *Vedanta group of companies*
 - i. *Religare*
 - j. *Paytm*
3. *Any other related information*
4. *File-notings on movement of RTI application”*

3. **Reply of the Respondent** - The respondent, in response to the requests informed that the information sought are not clear and specific and are in the nature of seeking clarification. Accordingly, the same cannot be construed as “information”, as defined u/s 2(f) of the RTI Act, 2005.

Further, the respondent informed that the information sought is not readily available with SEBI and the same is maintained in separate individual files, placed at multiple locations across SEBI. Hence, collating the information for providing response to the said request would disproportionately divert the resources of the public authority in terms of section 7(9) of the RTI Act.

4. **Ground of appeal** - The appellant has filed the appeal on the ground that the information provided is incomplete, misleading and false information.
5. I have perused the request and the response provided thereto. On consideration, 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. 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 19, 2024

B RAJENDRAN

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