

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

Appeal No. 5754 of 2023

Halpati Mukeshbhai Bhikhubhai	:	Appellant
	Vs	
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated May 20, 2023 (received by the respondent through RTI MIS Portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated June 14, 2023, responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/23/00163) dated July 17, 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 May 20, 2023, sought the following information:

“Please provide copy of SEBI Circular / Letter No. OW/16541/2012 dated 24th July, 2012 directing AMFI to grant investors exemption from the requirement of PAN for Investments upto Rs.50,000/- per Mutual Fund per Financial Year.”
3. The respondent, in response to the aforesaid query, informed that the information sought by the appellant is publicly available on the SEBI website. The respondent also provided the link/ path for accessing the same.
4. **Ground of appeal-** The appellant has filed the appeal on the ground that the information provided was incomplete, misleading or false. The appellant, in his appeal, *inter alia*, submitted that the said circular/ letter is not available on the link provided by the respondent. The appellant also submitted that only a summary of the said letter/ circular is provided at the link.
5. I have perused the query and the response provided thereto. I note that the appellant had sought “*copy of SEBI Circular / Letter No. OW/16541/2012 dated 24th July, 2012*” vide which certain directions were issued for granting exemption from the requirement of PAN for investments upto certain amount per

mutual fund per financial year. On consideration, I find that the respondent has guided the appellant to refer to the SEBI Master Circular for Mutual Funds dated May 19, 2023 where in the details of the letter No. OW/16541/2012 is mentioned. In my opinion, the respondent has adequately addressed the query by guiding the appellant to access the information which is already available in the public domain. Accordingly, I do not find any deficiency in the response.

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: August 17, 2023

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