

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

Appeal No. 6091 of 2024

Harbans Singh Sahni	:	Appellant
Vs		
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated July 12, 2024 (received by the respondent through RTI MIS Portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated July 25, 2024 responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/24/00158) dated July 26, 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 July 12, 2024, sought the following information:

*“Total Number of RTI Raised to sebi with reference to company Gradiante infotainment including its RTA from 2018 til 2024 electronically and physically both
Total Number of Second Appeal filed with reference to it From 2020 to 2024O”*
3. **Ground of appeal** - On perusal of the appeal, it appears that the appellant is not satisfied with the response provided by the respondent.
4. **Reply of the Respondent** - The respondent, in response to the application, informed that the information sought is enormous and collating the same for providing response to the query of the appellant would disproportionately divert the resources of the public authority in terms of section 7(9) of the RTI Act, 2005. Further, the respondent informed that the appellant has filed 116 RTI applications from August, 2018 to April, 2024. The respondent further observed that the appellant’s matter was heard by the Hon’ble Central Information Commission (hereinafter referred to as “**CIC**”) ten times and orders were passed on various dates during the period from June 04, 2020 to November 10, 2022. Further, the appellant’s third application filed before the Hon’ble CIC was disposed of on December 23, 2021, *inter*

alia, with the observation that the CPIO is not obliged to provide clarification/confirmations to the applicant with respect to redressal of his grievances. It was also observed that filing multiple RTI applications pertaining to similar issues will not entitle him to receive the requested information. Further, the Hon'ble CIC, advised and restrained the appellant from filing repeated RTI applications with respect to the similar issues in future. Similarly, the respondent referred to the other orders passed by the Hon'ble CIC in similar matters, wherein the appellant was, *inter alia*, advised to approach appropriate forum to redress his grievances. Accordingly, the respondent advised the appellant to restrain from filing repeated RTI applications with respect to similar issues on the subject matter in future and approach appropriate forum to redress his grievance.

5. I have perused the application and the response provided thereto. I note that the requested information is not readily available with the respondent in the manner as sought by the appellant and that the respondent would be required to collate and compile information which is voluminous in nature. In my opinion, collating and compiling would disproportionately divert the resources of Securities and Exchange Board of India (hereinafter referred to as “SEBI”) and would defeat ‘the practical regime of right to information’ as envisaged in the preamble of the RTI Act. In this context, I note that the Hon'ble CIC, in the matter of *Mr. Deepak Girdhar vs. CPIO, SEBI* (Order dated March 30, 2021), observed that “6. *The Commission, after bearing the submissions of the respondent and after perusal of records, observes that the information sought by the appellant is voluminous in nature and may not be readily available with the CPIO in the manner as sought by the appellant, collating and compiling of which would disproportionately divert the resources of the respondent organization. Hence, the disclosure of information is exempted as per Section 7(9) of the RTI Act.*” In view of these observations, 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: August 19, 2024

RUCHI CHOJER

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