

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

Appeal No. 5342 of 2022

Vijaykumar Vasudev Ankam	:	Appellant
	Vs	
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated July 14, 2022 (received by SEBI on July 16, 2022) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated July 19, 2022, responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal dated August 05, 2022 (received by the Office of Appellate Authority on August 17, 2022). I have perused the application, the response of the respondent 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, in his application dated July 14, 2022, referred to his letter dated June 30, 2022 sent to SEBI by Post (RM284237640IN). Further, the appellant queried why SEBI does not reply to any letter on time.
3. The respondent, in response to the aforesaid application, informed that the said letter has been uploaded as a complaint on SCORES. Further, the respondent provided the registration number assigned to the complaint and also guided the appellant to track the status of the complaint by logging into the SCORES website.
4. **Ground of appeal-** On perusal of the appeal, it appears that the appellant is not satisfied with the response provided by the respondent. The appellant, in his appeal, *inter alia*, stated that he had sought written answers to the letter dated June 30, 2022. The appellant also queried how investors can trust mutual funds when his questions are not being answered.
5. I have perused the application and the response provided thereto. On consideration, I find that the respondent has adequately addressed the application by providing the information available with him regarding the letter dated June 30, 2022 forwarded by the appellant. Accordingly, I do not find any deficiency in the response.

6. With respect to the latter part of the application regarding “*why SEBI does not reply to any letter on time*”, I find that the same is in the nature of seeking clarification/opinion from the respondent. I note that the respondent is not supposed to create information; or to interpret information; or to furnish clarification to the appellant under the ambit of the RTI Act. In this context, reference is made to the matter of *Vineet Pandey vs. CPIO, United India Insurance Company Limited* (Judgment dated January 21, 2021), wherein similar observations were made by the Hon’ble CIC. Further, in the matter of *Shri Shantaram Walavalkar vs. CPIO, SEBI* (Decision dated January 17, 2013), I note that the Hon’ble CIC held: “... *we would also like to observe that, under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the citizen has the responsibility to specify the exact information he wants; he is not supposed to seek any opinion or comments or clarifications or interpretations from the CPIO...*”. I find that the said query cannot be construed as seeking ‘information’ as defined under section 2 (f) of the RTI Act. Consequently, the respondent did not have an obligation to provide such clarification or opinion under the RTI Act.
7. Further, on perusal of the appeal, it appears that the appellant has grievance regarding response not being provided with respect to his letter dated June 30, 2022 sent to various public authorities including SEBI. In my opinion, if the appellant has any grievance, he may approach the appropriate grievance redressal forum. I note that redressal of grievance does not fall within the ambit of the RTI Act. Similar observations were made by the Hon’ble CIC in the matter of *Sh. Triveni Prasad Babuguna vs. LIC of India, Lucknow* (Decision dated September 6, 2012). In view of these observations, I find that the submissions of the appellant in his appeal, do not warrant consideration at this stage.
8. 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

ANAND BAIWAR

Date: September 12, 2022

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