

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

Appeal No. 6100 of 2024

Utkarsh Singh	:	Appellant
	Vs	
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated July 23, 2024 (received by the respondent through RTI MIS Portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 ("**RTI Act**"). The respondent, by a letter dated August 08, 2024 responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/24/00166) dated August 08, 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. **Ground of appeal** - The appellant filed the appeal on the ground that he was refused access to information requested.
3. **Request nos. 1-6, 9-15 and 17-23 of the application** - The appellant, vide his request nos. 1-6, 9-15 and 17-23 of the application dated July 23, 2024, sought the following information:

"Kindly furnish the following information with respect to Phase 2 exam and interview for SEBI Grade A (legal Stream) 2023 recruitment exercise of 2023.

1. Combined (i.e. Paper 1 & 2) Highest Score in Phase 2 in each category among those who qualified for interview.
2. Combined (i.e. Paper 1 & 2) Lowest Score in Phase 2 in each category among those who qualified for interview.
3. Highest score in paper 2 of phase 2 of those selected for interview in each category.
4. Lowest score in paper 2 of phase 2 of those selected for interview in each category.
5. Lowest score in paper 1 of phase 2 of those selected for interview in each category.
6. Highest score in paper 1 of phase 2 of those selected for interview in each category.
7. ...
8. ...
9. Number of candidates scored a combined score above 120, 130, 140 & 150 respectively among those selected for interview.
10. Number of candidates score above 60 & 65 in paper 2 of those selected for interview.
11. Number of candidates scored above 70 & 75 in paper 2 of those selected for an interview.
12. Number of candidates scored above 80 & 85 in paper 2 of those selected for an interview.

13. Number of candidates scored above 90 in paper 2 of those selected for an interview.
14. Highest and lowest marks scored in interview in each category.
15. Number of candidates score above 10 marks in interview.
16. ...
17. Highest and lowest marks in scored in the final merit among those selected for the post in each category.
18. Highest score in paper 2 of phase 2 of those candidate selected in the final merit list for the post in each category.
19. Lowest score in paper 2 of phase 2 of those candidate selected in the final merit list for the post in each category.
20. Lowest score in paper 1 of phase 2 of those candidate selected in the final merit list for the post in each category.
21. Highest score in paper 1 of phase 2 of those candidate selected in the final merit list for the post in each category.
22. Highest and lowest score of phase 2 paper 1 in each category of the selected candidate for interview and candidates who have been selected.
23. Highest and lowest score in Phase 2 Papaer 2 Descriptive part in each category of the selected candidate for interview and candidates who have been selected in the final merit list”

4. **Reply of the Respondent** - The respondent, in response to the aforesaid queries, informed that the information sought is enormous and collating the same for providing response to the queries of the appellant would disproportionately divert the resources of the public authority in terms of section 7(9) of the RTI Act, 2005. However, the respondent informed that information related to cutoff for Phase I, cutoff for Phase II and minimum marks secured by the last selected candidate in the recruitment exercise, 2023 for Grade A Officers (Legal Stream) are available on SEBI website under careers section. The respondent also provided the relevant links for the above.
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 hearing 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. Notwithstanding the above, I note that the respondent has informed that information related to cutoff for Phase I, cutoff for Phase II and minimum marks secured by the last selected candidate in the recruitment exercise, 2023 for Grade A Officers (Legal Stream) are available on SEBI website under the section “Careers”.

6. **Request nos. 7-8 and 16 of the application** - The appellant, vide his request nos. 7-8 and 16 of the application dated July 23, 2024, sought the following information with respect to Phase 2 exam and interview for SEBI Grade A (legal Stream) recruitment exercise of 2023:

“7. Number of candidates qualified for interview in each category.

8. Number of each reserved category candidates qualified in unreserved category for interview, please specify category along with number.”

“16. Number of reserved category candidates selected in unreserved category for Grade a legal stream, please specify the category along with number.”

7. **Reply of the Respondent** - In response to requests nos. 7-8 and 16 of the application, the respondent informed that the information regarding number of candidates qualified for interview and list of selected candidate are available on SEBI website under the section “Careers”. The respondent also provided the relevant links in regard to the above.
8. I have perused the aforesaid requests and the response provided thereto. On consideration, I find that the respondent has adequately addressed the said requests by providing the information available with him. Accordingly, no further intervention of this forum is warranted.
9. 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 26, 2024

RUCHI CHOJER

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