

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

**Appeal No. 5703 of 2023**

|                              |    |            |
|------------------------------|----|------------|
| Rajeshbhai Bhagvatlal Gandhi | :  | Appellant  |
|                              | Vs |            |
| CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai           | :  | Respondent |

**ORDER**

1. The appellant had filed an application dated May 09, 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 01, 2023, responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/23/00122) dated June 05, 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, in his application dated May 09, 2023, *inter alia*, mentioned that he had made investments in Suman Motels Limited, Adventure Orchards and Resorts India Limited, Mehna Plantation Pvt. Ltd. and Shuphala Plantations Limited. The appellant also stated that he has not received any payment from the said companies. Further, the appellant stated that he had given information to PMO Office. The appellant sought information regarding situation of the companies. The appellant also queried as to when the companies will give all the payment to him.
3. The respondent, in response to the aforesaid application, informed that the information sought by the appellant is in the nature of grievance and that the same does not qualify as “information” under the provisions of section 2(f) of the RTI Act. The respondent also informed that taking action or resolution of grievances does not come under the purview of the RTI Act. Further, the respondent provided information regarding lodging of grievance, if any, on the SCORES portal of SEBI and tracking the status of the same. The respondent also provided the toll free helpline numbers launched by SEBI to facilitate replies to various queries of the general public on matters related to securities market. The appellant was also advised to refer to the FAQs on “Investor Grievances- SCORES”, available on the SEBI website. The respondent also provided the link for accessing the said FAQs.

4. **Ground of appeal-** The appellant has filed the appeal on the ground that access to the requested information was refused. The appellant, in his appeal, *inter alia*, requested to transfer the application to the concerned department.
5. I have perused the application and the response provided thereto. On perusal, I find that the query regarding “situation of the companies” is not clear and specific. Further, I find that the query regarding probable time when the money will be returned to him, is in the nature of eliciting a clarification or opinion from the respondent regarding a future event, which cannot be construed as an information available on record. Such questions are beyond the scope of the definition of “information” under section 2(f) of the RTI Act, as held by the Hon’ble CIC in the matters of *Shri N. Anbarasan Vs. The CPIO of CIC* (Order dated October 26, 2006) and *Shri Ravi Kumar Vs. Coffee Board, Bangalore* (Order dated April 13, 2006). Further, I note that the appellant’s application is in the nature of grievance. In this regard, I note that the respondent has appropriately guided the appellant to refer to the SCORES website for lodging his grievance, if any, and also provided helpline service numbers launched by SEBI, to facilitate replies to various queries of the general public on matters relating to securities market. It is understood that SCORES is an online platform designed to help investors to lodge their complaints, pertaining to securities market, online with SEBI against listed companies and SEBI registered intermediaries. In view of the same, I find that the application has been adequately addressed and no further intervention is warranted at this stage.
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: July 03, 2023

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