

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

Appeal No. 6289 of 2025

Abha Agrawal	:	Appellant
Vs		
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated December 24, 2024 (received by the respondent through RTI MIS Portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated January 10, 2025, responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/25/00011) dated January 10, 2025. 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 her application dated December 24, 2024, sought the following information:

“Please share Cost to Company (CTC) of employees and contract staff of Sebi. That is ctc of grade a, b, c, d, e, f officers, contract staff, and secretaries Please also share breakup calculation of the same.”
3. **Reply of the Respondent** - The respondent, in response to the application, informed that information regarding pay, allowances and other benefits and the break-up of remuneration is available on SEBI website. The respondent also provided the paths for accessing the same.
4. **Ground of appeal** – The appellant has filed the appeal on the ground that she was provided incomplete, misleading or false information. The appellant in her appeal has submitted that links shared did not disclose CTC of employees and its breakup.

5. I have perused the application and the response provided thereto. On consideration, I find that section 4(1)(b) of the RTI Act mandates, *inter alia*, the disclosure of “*monthly remuneration received by each of its officers and employees, including the system of compensation as provided in its regulations*” by every public authority. In line with the aforesaid, pay, allowance, other benefits and break up of remuneration received by employees has been placed on SEBI website. I note that respondent has also provided the path for accessing the same on SEBI website. Thus, I find that the information sought is available in public domain. In this regard, I note that the Hon’ble Delhi High Court, in *Registrar of Companies & Ors. Vs. Dharmendra Kumar Garg & Ors.* [Judgment dated June 01, 2012 in W.P.(C) 11271/2009], observed that “... *This should mean that unless an information is exclusively held and controlled by a public authority, that information cannot be said to be an information accessible under the RTI Act. Inferentially it would mean that once a certain information is placed in the public domain accessible to the citizens either freely, or on payment of a pre-determined price, that information cannot be said to be 'held' or 'under the control of' the public authority and, thus would cease to be an information accessible under the RTI Act.*” 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: February 06, 2025

RUCHI CHOJER

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