

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

Appeal No. 5716 of 2023

Pramod Kumar	:	Appellant
	Vs	
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated April 18, 2023 (received by SEBI on April 25, 2023) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated May 18, 2023, responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal dated Nil (received by the Office of Appellate Authority on June 15, 2023). 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 April 18, 2023, referred to the response dated January 17, 2022 provided by the respondent with respect to his earlier application filed under the RTI Act. The appellant, *inter alia*, sought the details of recovery made so far in the matter of Weird Infrastructure Corporation Ltd. The appellant also sought information regarding the status of refund in the said matter.
3. The respondent, in response to the query pertaining to the details of recovery in the matter, informed that as per available record, an amount of Rs. 5,60,206.33 has been recovered. With respect to the query regarding status of refund, the respondent informed about the appointment of the Hon’ble Justice Talukdar Committee (‘One Man Committee’) by the Hon’ble Calcutta High Court, for looking after the process of making refunds to the investors in the matter of Weird Group of Companies. The respondent also advised the appellant to seek information regarding status of refund from the said Committee.
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*, submitted that there has

been no progress in the matter. The appellant, in his appeal, sought information regarding the process of refund in the matter.

5. I have perused the queries and the response provided thereto. On consideration, I find that the respondent has informed regarding the total amount recovered in the matter. Further, the respondent has clearly informed the appellant regarding appointment of the Hon'ble Justice Talukdar Committee to deal with the process of making refunds to investors in the matter of Weird Group of Companies. In my opinion, the respondent has adequately addressed the queries by providing the information available with him on record. In view of the same, I do not find any deficiency in the response.
6. Further, I note that the appellant, in his appeal, sought information regarding the process of refund in the matter. I note that this request has been made for the first time in this appeal. As held by the Hon'ble CIC in *Harish Prasad Divedi vs. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited* (decided on January 28, 2014), an information seeker cannot be allowed to expand the scope of his RTI enquiry at appeal stage. Accordingly, I find that the said request does not warrant consideration at this stage.
7. Notwithstanding the above, I note that the matters handled by the Hon'ble Justice Talukdar Committee, have been published on the relevant website and the same is available in the public domain. The appellant may be guided accordingly. The link for accessing the said website is mentioned below-

<https://www.justicesptalukdarcommittee.com/>
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
Date: July 13, 2023

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