

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

Appeal No. 5571 of 2023

Manish Goel	:	Appellant
	Vs	
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated December 28, 2022 (received by the respondent through RTI MIS Portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated December 16, 2022, responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal (reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/23/00018) dated January 17, 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. **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, stated that the CPIO refused to provide information based on frivolous and unlawful reasons. In view of the submissions made by the appellant in his appeal, I am dealing with the queries and the response provided thereto in the following paragraphs.
3. **Query number 1-** The appellant, vide query number 1, inter alia, sought the date on which the outward number 14102 (regarding the SCN No. NRO/PMS/AK/.....02/2022) was generated by the computer/system.
4. The respondent, in response to the aforesaid query, informed that the no. 14102 was generated on March 31, 2022, being the date of SCN dated March 31, 2022 issued to MSRAPL.
5. I have perused the query and the response provided by the respondent. On consideration, I find that the respondent has adequately addressed the query by providing the information available with him. Accordingly, I do not find any deficiency in the response.
6. **Query numbers 2 and 3-** The appellant, vide query numbers 2 and 3, sought the following information-

“2. Provide list and number of all outward number generated on 01.04.2022 in SEBI NRO.

3. Provide list and number of all outward number generated on 31.03.2022 in SEBI NRO?”

7. The respondent, in response to the aforesaid queries, informed that the information sought pertains to the internal functioning of SEBI and relates to the systems and procedures followed at SEBI. Further, the said information is strategic in nature, disclosure of which may hamper the decision making by SEBI in its supervisory and regulatory role. In view of the same, the information sought by the appellant is exempt under section 8(1)(a) of the RTI Act.
8. I have perused the queries and the response provided thereto. On consideration, I find that the said queries are vague and not specific. In this context, I note that in the matter of *Mr. T. V. Sundaresan vs. CPIO, Securities and Exchange Board of India* (Decision dated November 24, 2021), the Hon’ble CIC held: *“The framework of the RTI Act, 2005 expects that the information sought is specific and believed to be existing with the public authority in documented or material form as such; which can be shared with the appellant as per the provisions of the RTI Act. Answering to broad, multiple and general queries and presumptive documents that should have been generated as per the expectation of the appellant cannot be furnished under the provisions of the Act.”* In view of these observations, find that the queries cannot be construed as seeking “information”, as defined under section 2(f) of the RTI Act.
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: February 10, 2023

A SUNIL KUMAR

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