

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

Appeal No. 5491 of 2022

Viswanathan B	:	Appellant
	Vs	
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated October 11, 2022 (received by the respondent through RTI MIS Portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated November 09, 2022, responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/22/00644) dated November 17, 2022. 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 October 11, 2022, inter alia, made certain allegations of non-compliance against Coimbatore Stock Exchange (now known as Coimbatore Enterprises and Holdings Limited). The appellant also stated that he had asked SEBI to inform the department in SEBI which can handle his grievance and that he had not received any response. The appellant stated that he has filed the application under the RTI Act, to get the requested information.
3. The respondent, in response to the aforementioned application, informed that erstwhile Coimbatore Stock Exchange is no longer a recognized stock exchange pursuant to order dated April 03, 2013 passed by SEBI. Therefore, erstwhile Coimbatore Stock Exchange is not a regulated entity of SEBI after April 03, 2013. However, respondent informed that the appellant’s letter dated September 01, 2022 was forwarded to Coimbatore Enterprises and Holdings Limited (CEHL) vide email dated September 20, 2022 to examine the matter and take necessary action. The respondent also provided copy of the said email dated September 20, 2022 sent by SEBI along with the copy of the response dated November 07, 2022 sent by CEHL, after severing the names and designations of SEBI officials since the same is exempt from disclosure under Sections 8(1)(g) and 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act.

4. **Ground of appeal-** The appellant has not mentioned any specific ground for filing the appeal. The appellant, in his appeal, submitted that he wanted to get details of the authority in SEBI who would address his grievance and the same has not been provided by the respondent.
5. I have perused the application and the response provided thereto. I note that the appellant has made certain allegations against CEHL and also referred to his complaints sent to SEBI. Further, the appellant sought information regarding the department which can handle his grievance. I note that the respondent has clearly informed that Coimbatore Stock Exchange is not a regulated entity of SEBI after April 03, 2013. Further, the respondent also provided information regarding action taken with respect to the complaint filed by the appellant. On perusal of the application, I find that the same is in the nature of seeking opinion/guidance from the respondent and the same cannot be construed as seeking “information” under section 2(f) of the RTI Act. Notwithstanding the same, I find that the respondent has adequately responded to the application by providing the information available with him. 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: December 09, 2022

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