

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

Appeal No. 6113 of 2024

Suresh Chand Pawar	:	Appellant
	Vs	
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application (Reg. No. SEBIH/R/P/24/00168) dated July 16, 2024 (received by SEBI on July 24, 2024) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated July 30, 2024, responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal dated August 08, 2024 (received by the Office of Appellate Authority on August 13, 2024). 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. **Request in the application-** The appellant, in his application dated July 16, 2024, *inter alia*, referred to his earlier RTI application (Reg. No. SEBIH/R/T/24/00116) dated April 27, 2024 and sought the information regarding the name and address of the appropriate office which would deal with the subject matter of his queries. The appellant also sought information regarding address of the First Appellate Authority and the Second Appellate Authority.
3. **Reply of the Respondent -** The respondent, in response to the application informed the appellant to refer to his earlier application under RTI (Reference No: SEBIH/T/24/00116) and its reply dated 2nd July, 2024 (Reference No: CPIO/BS/ Refer to No. 550 and 551/2024- 25), wherein it was informed that as the information sought does not pertain to SEBI, the two letters dated 26/06/2024 (received from the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance) pertaining to the appellant were transferred to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Further, the respondent provided the contact details of Central Information Commission and informed that the details of the First Appellate Authority was already provided to the appellant vide

above letter dated 02/07/2024 and was also given in the last para of respondent's reply dated July 30, 2024.

4. **Ground of appeal** - The appellant filed the appeal on the ground that the information provided is incomplete and has sought contact details of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "MCA").
5. I have perused the aforesaid requests and the response provided thereto. I note that the appellant in his appeal has mainly sought information regarding the address of MCA. I note that the same was also sought in the RTI application of the appellant. On consideration, I note that the information sought by the appellant is available in public domain. In this context, the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, in the matter of *Registrar of Companies & Ors. Vs. Dharmendra Kumar Garg & Anr.* and the Hon'ble Central Information Commission in the matter of *Shri K Lall vs. Shri M K Bagri* (CIC/AT/A/2007/00112, order dated April 12, 2007), *inter alia*, observed that if the relevant information is available in the public domain, the same cannot be said to be information held by the public authority and consequently there is no obligation to provide such information to an applicant under the RTI Act. Accordingly, I do not find any deficiency in the response of the respondent.
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: September 10, 2024

RUCHI CHOJER

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