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

Appeal No. 6261 of 2025

Beena Bhatia	:	Appellant
	Vs	
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated November 13, 2024 (received by SEBI on November 18, 2024) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 ("**RTI Act**"). The respondent, by a letter dated December 05, 2024, responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal dated December 13, 2024 (received by the Office of Appellate Authority on December 19, 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. **Queries in the application-** The appellant, in her application dated November 13, 2024 has stated that she has 100 shares of Prudential International Limited. She has also mentioned her registered Folio number and distinctive number. She has sought the following information *"if there has been any change in the name of the company or has there been any amalgamation of the company with any other company."*

3. **Reply of the Respondent** - The respondent, in response to the query informed that the information sought by the appellant is not maintained by SEBI in normal course of regulation of securities market. Hence, the same is not available with SEBI. However, the respondent also informed that the information sought by the appellant is available on the website of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (**MCA**).

4. **Ground of appeal**- On perusal of the appeal, it appears that the appellant is not satisfied with the response provided by the respondent.

5. I have perused the application and the response provided thereto. On consideration, I find that information sought in the application is not maintained by SEBI in normal course of regulation of securities market. Accordingly, it is understood that the information sought is not available with SEBI. I note that the respondent can only provide information that is available in the records. In this context, I note that the Hon'ble Central Information Commission (hereinafter referred to as "**CIC**"), in the matter of *Sh. Pattipati Rama Murthy vs. CPIO, SEBI*(Decision dated July 8, 2013), held*:"... if it (SEBI) does not have any such information in its possession, the CPIO cannot obviously invent one for the benefit of the Appellant. There is simply no information to be given."* Accordingly, I do not find any deficiency in the response of the respondent.

6. Notwithstanding the above, I note that the information sought by the appellant is publically available on the website of Ministry of Corporate Affairs. 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 CIC 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.

7. 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: January 08, 2025

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