

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

Appeal No. 5927 of 2024

Upasana Gohain	:	Appellant
Vs		
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated February 10, 2024 (received by the respondent through RTI MIS Portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated February 21, 2024 responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/24/00033) dated February 24, 2024. 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. **Request in the application** –The appellant, vide her application dated February 10, 2024, sought the following information:

“I, Upasana Gohain, Research Scholar in the Department of Commerce, Gauhati University, am carrying out my doctoral research on the behavior of stock market investors in Assam, India due to which I require the district-wise list and distribution of registered stockbrokers (specifying their respective address) in Assam so that I can seek their help in identifying individual investors. This will enable me to carry out my research work and I shall be obliged. I assure you that the data will be kept confidential and shall be used for research purpose only.”
3. **Reply of the Respondent** – The respondent in response to the request informed that the details of registered stock brokers are available in public domain and can be accessed on the SEBI website. The respondent also provided the path to access the said information on SEBI website.
4. I have perused the request and the response provided thereto. I note that the appellant in her appeal has submitted that the information available on SEBI website is about the registered Stock Brokers in entire India and she had sought a district wise list of registered Stock Brokers in the state of Assam only. I note

that while the respondent has provided the information pertaining to registered stock brokers, however, the appellant in her application has sought information in a particular format. In this regard, I note that only the documents/information available in material form as per the records available with the public authority can be furnished under the RTI Act. Further, the respondent is not supposed to create information, or interpret information or compile information as per the desire of the appellant under the ambit of the RTI Act. The respondent is only a communicator of information based on the records held in the office and hence, he cannot be expected to do research work to deduce anything from the material therein and then supply it to the appellant. In this context, I note that the Hon'ble Central Information Commission had made similar observation in the matter of *Mr. Nitin Moolani vs. CPIO, SEBI* (order dated October 25, 2021).

5. 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: March 7, 2024

B RAJENDRAN

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