

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

Appeal No. 7038 of 2026

Ritesh Kumar : Appellant

Vs

CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai : Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated July 03, 2026 (received by SEBI through RTI MIS portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated July 30, 2026, responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal dated August 11, 2026 (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/26/00307). 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 his application, sought the following information:

“My name is Ritesh Kumar. I appeared for the SEBI GRADE A LAW OFFICER Exam Phase II held on 21.02.2026 and my Roll No is 258100xxxxx.

I require the following documents

1. Certified copy of my evaluated answers Scripts/ checked answer sheet for paper 1 and paper 2.

2. Copy of official model answer key/ Evaluation guidelines, if any, used by the examiners for checking the aforementioned papers.”

3. **Reply of the Respondent** – The respondent, in response to queries no. 1 in the application, informed that the online examination for recruitment of SEBI Grade A Officer is conducted by Institute of Banking Personal Selection (IBPS- which is an autonomous body) within the terms of MOU as per which only IBPS is in possession of copies of evaluated descriptive paper, which is not shared with SEBI. Hence, the same is

not available with SEBI. The respondent has also enclosed along with his reply the response sheet (answer marked by Roll No. 2581006407) and Right answer keys for the post of Officer Grade 'A' (Assistant Manager) 2025 Legal Stream- Phase II exam.

With regard to query no. 2, the respondent informed that no such information is available with SEBI.

4. **Ground of appeal** – The appellant has filed the appeal on the ground that he was refused access to the information requested.
5. I have perused the application and the response provided thereto. On consideration, I note that the respondent has informed that the information sought in the application is not available with SEBI. Further, with regard to query no.1, I note that the respondent has also stated that as per MOU, only IBPS is in possession of copies of evaluated descriptive paper, and the same is not shared with SEBI. I note that the respondent can only provide information that is available in the records. In this context, reliance is placed on the decision of Hon'ble Central Information Commission (**CIC**) in the matter of *Lakshminarayanan R vs. SEBI* (order dated February 09, 2023), wherein it was observed that *"It is an established law that the information sought for in order to be disclosable under the RTI Act, 2005 must be existent and available in the records..... In the instant case, the desired information was not available in the records of the respondent authority"* 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 09, 2026

RUCHI CHOJER

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