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

Appeal No. 7159 of 2026

Saraswati	:	Appellant
	Vs	
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated August 25, 2026 under the Right to Information Act, 2005 ("**RTI Act**"). The respondent, by a letter dated September 17, 2026, responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal dated October 12, 2026 (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/P/26/0078, received by the Office of Appellate Authority on October 21, 2026). 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, sought the following information:

"आप मुझे जन सूचना अधिकार अधिनियम 2005 के अंतर्गत आपके कार्यालय को प्रेषित पत्र दिनांक:-10/07/2026 (जिसकी छायाप्रति साथ में संलग्न है संलग्नक संख्या:- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) के संबंध में निम्नलिखित वांछित सूचना प्रदान करें।

1. आपके कार्यालय को प्रेषित पत्र दिनांक:-10/07/2026 पर आपके द्वारा की गई कार्यवाहियों की प्रमाणित छायाप्रति प्रदान करें।
2. आपके कार्यालय को प्रेषित पत्र दिनांक:-10/07/2026 पर आपके कार्यालय के किस सक्षम अधिकारी के द्वारा तत्संबंधित की गई कार्यवाहियों की प्रमाणित छायाप्रति प्रदान करें।
3. आपके कार्यालय को प्रेषित पत्र दिनांक:-10/07/2026 किस सक्षम अधिकारी के पास कितने दिन लंबित रहा, वह लंबित रहने की अवधि बताई जाए।
4. आपके कार्यालय को प्रेषित पत्र दिनांक:-10/07/2026 के संबंध में आपके द्वारा की गई कार्यवाही एवं उक्त प्रेषित पत्र दिनांक:-10/07/2026 के संबंध में की गई जांच रिपोर्ट की प्रमाणित छायाप्रति प्रदान करें।

5. आपके कार्यालय की ईमेल आईडी पर कई बार पत्र प्रेषित किए गए (जिसकी छायाप्रति साथ में संलग्न है संलग्नक संख्या:- 10, 11) प्रार्थी/ आवेदक द्वारा आपकी ईमेल आईडी पर प्रेषित पत्र पर आपके द्वारा की गई कार्यवाहियों की प्रमाणित छायाप्रति प्रदान करें।"

3. **Reply of the Respondent** – The respondent, in response to the application, informed that the information sought is not available with SEBI. Notwithstanding the aforesaid, the respondent stated that all communication regarding refund status is handled by the Justice (Retd.) R.M. Lodha Committee. The respondent also advised the appellant to approach the said Committee. Further, the respondent informed that the details of PACL Matters- Public Notices, Press Releases, Status Report and FAQs etc. are available on SEBI website.

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

5. I have perused the application and the response provided thereto. The respondent, in his response, has categorically mentioned that the requested information is not available with SEBI. In this context, I note that the Hon'ble Central Information Commission (**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. Further, I note that the appellant's application was addressed to both SEBI and Justice (Retd.) R.M. Lodha Committee. I note that the responsibility of disposal of the properties and repayment to investors in PACL matter, is entrusted with the Justice (Retd.) R. M. Lodha Committee (under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.M. Lodha, former Chief Justice of India), which has been constituted, pursuant to the order dated February 2, 2016 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. I also note that Hon'ble CIC in its decision in *M Shanmugam v CPIO, Pearls Agrotech Corporation Ltd. & Or.* (Date of decision: 14.03.2024) had accepted the contention of the respondent that the Justice Lodha Committee is not public authority under section 2(h) of the RTI Act. Accordingly, I do not find any further intervention of this forum is warranted.

7. The appeal is accordingly dismissed.

RUCHI CHOJER

Digitally signed by RUCHI CHOJER
Date: 2026.11.16 15:18:53 +05'30'

Place: Mumbai
Date: November 16, 2026

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