

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

Appeal No. 6946 of 2026

Harsh Vardhan Joshi : Appellant

Vs

CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai : Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated June 01, 2026 (received by SEBI through RTI MIS portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated June 22, 2026 responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal dated June 23, 2026 (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/26/00232). 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. The appellant, in his appeal, has raised dispute only with respect to the response of the respondent to query nos. 8, 9 and 11.
3. **Query nos. 8, 9 and 11 in the application** - The appellant, vide the aforementioned queries, sought the following information:

“8. Kindly provide the applicable circulars, guidelines, standard operating procedures (SOPs), manuals, or internal instructions governing the processing and disposal of Second-Level Reviews under the SCORES framework as applicable during the relevant period.

9. Kindly provide the prescribed timeline, if any, for disposal of Second-Level Review requests under the SCORES mechanism.

11. Kindly provide a copy of the approval, order, note, or record based on which the complaint was finally disposed of on 21.05.2026”

4. **Reply of the Respondent** –With regard to query nos. 8 and 9, the respondent informed that the appellant can refer to SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/OIAE/IGRD/CIR/P/2023/156 dated September 20, 2023, which is available on SEBI website.
5. **Ground of appeal** – The appellant has filed the appeal on the ground that he was provided incomplete, misleading or false information. The appellant, in his appeal, submitted that the point no.11 in the RTI application was not answered. With regard to query nos. 8 and 9, the respondent also stated that the copy of the Circular mentioned should have been enclosed along with the reply of the respondent.
6. I have perused the queries and the response provided thereto. With regard to query nos. 8 and 9, the respondent has informed that the appellant can refer to SEBI Circular dated September 20, 2023, which is available on SEBI website. Hence, I note that the requested information is available in the public domain. In this context, I note that the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in *Registrar of Companies & ors. Vs. Dharmendra Kumar Garg & anr.* and the Hon'ble Central Information Commission in *Shri K Lall vs. Shri M K Bagri* (CIC/AT/A/2007/00112, order dated April 12, 2007) held 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 said response of the respondent.
7. With regard to query no.11, I note that the respondent had not provided any specific reply to the aforesaid query. Accordingly, I find that the query has not been adequately answered and warrants reconsideration.
8. Considering the above observations, I remit the application to the respondent for *de novo* consideration of query no. 11 in the application and sending appropriate response to the appellant in terms of RTI Act, within 15 working days from the date of receipt of this order.
9. The Appeal is accordingly disposed of.

Place: Mumbai

Date: July 22, 2026

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