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

Appeal No. 6980 of 2026

Ebenezer R	:	Appellant
	Vs	
CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai	:	Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated June 24, 2026 (received by SEBI through RTI MIS portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 ("**RTI Act**"). The respondent, by a letter dated July 14, 2026 responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal dated July 16, 2026 (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/26/00259). 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 dated June 24, 2026 sought the following information:

"Respected Sir/Madam, I am filing this application under Section 6(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 and seek the following information:

1. Please provide the details of all books purchased for the library in SEBI from 1 January 2020 till May 2026 For each book purchased, kindly provide:

Title of the book

Author(s)

Publisher

Date of purchase

Number of copies purchased

Cost of the book

Please provide the year-wise total expenditure incurred on book purchases for the SEBI Library from 2020 to date."

3. **Reply of the Respondent** – The respondent, in response to the application, informed that the information sought is not available in the format sought by the appellant. However, respondent provided the year wise expenditure on books from the calendar year 2020 to May,2026.

4. **Ground of appeal** – The appellant has filed the appeal on the ground that he was provided incomplete, misleading or false information.

5. I have perused the application and the response provided thereto. I note that the respondent has informed that the information sought is not maintained by SEBI in the manner/format as specified. I note that the CPIO is expected to provide information that is available and existing in the records. In this context, I note that similar response/submission provided by the respondent was accepted by the Hon'ble Central Information Commission (**CIC**) in the matter of the *Prateek Tewari v. CPIO, SEBI* (Order dated January 19, 2023) and it was observed that "*In respect to point no. 13 the information sought cannot be directed to be disclosed as the same was sought in a particular format and the CPIO submitted that the same is not available in that format*." Further, I note that the respondent had provided the year wise expenditure on books from the calendar year 2020 to May, 2026. Accordingly, I do not find any deficiency in the response.

6. I note that the appellant, in his appeal, has modified the queries in his application. As held by the Hon'ble CIC in *Harish Prasad Divedi vs. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited* (decided on January 28, 2014), an information seeker cannot be allowed to expand the scope of his RTI enquiry at appeal stage. Accordingly, I find that the said submissions do not warrant consideration at this stage.

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: August 14, 2026

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