

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

Appeal No. 7039 of 2026

Dadhaniya Uttam R : Appellant

Vs

CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai : Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated July 19, 2026 (received by SEBI through RTI MIS portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (“**RTI Act**”). The respondent, by a letter dated July 31, 2026, responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal dated August 11, 2026 (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/26/00308). 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 has filed the appeal only with respect to the response of the respondent to query nos. 1, 3, 4 and 5 in the application.
3. **Query nos. 1, 3, 4 & 5 in the application** - The appellant, vide query nos. 1, 3, 4 and 5 in his application, sought the following information:

“Regarding the recruitment process for the post of Officer Grade A (Assistant Manager) conducted by SEBI vide the detailed advertisement titled Recruitment of Officer Grade A (Assistant Manager) - 2025 published on October 30, 2025, please provide the following information from the official records:

- 1. The final merit marks (out of 100) obtained by the candidates placed at Rank 31, Rank 32, Rank 33, Rank 34, and Rank 35 in the Unreserved (UR) category under the General Stream in the final merit list.*
- 3. The category-wise number of selected candidates (broken down by UR, EWS, OBC, SC, ST, and PwBD) who have formally accepted the offer of appointment for this recruitment drive, as per the records available on the date of processing this application.*

4. The category-wise number of selected candidates (broken down by UR, EWS, OBC, SC, ST, and PwBD) who have declined the offer of appointment, withdrawn their candidature, failed to accept the offer in stipulated time, or whose candidature was cancelled, as per the records available on the date of processing this application.

5. As per the latest available administrative records on the date of processing this application, please provide the Sanctioned Strength, Actual Working Strength, and Total Number of Vacant Posts for the cadre of Officer Grade A (Assistant Manager), stream-wise for: (a) General (b) Legal (c) Information Technology (d) Research (e) Official Language (f) Engineering (Electrical) (g) Engineering (Civil)”

4. **Reply of the Respondent** – The respondent, in response to query no. 1, in the application, informed that the relevant information pertaining to SEBI Recruitment Exercise 2025 has been published on SEBI website and the same can be accessed through candidate credentials. The respondent also provided a link for accessing the same.

With regard to query nos. 3 & 4, the respondent informed that the information sought by the applicant is not readily available. The respondent informed that for providing a response to the same, data which is maintained in separate files need to be collated and lot of time and manpower will have to be devoted for the same. The respondent stated that this would disproportionately divert the resources of the public authority. Hence the respondent denied information u/s 7(9) of the RTI Act.

With regard to query no. 5, the respondent informed that the sanctioned strength is determined from time to time as per manpower requirement and work exigencies. Current sanctioned strength of SEBI Officers – Grades A to F and Persons in Position as on June 30, 2026 is 1166 and 1026 respectively. Sanctioned strength includes vacancies notified in ongoing recruitment exercise for 135 officer in Grade A.

The respondent informed that vacancies arise due to promotions, resignation and retirements of employees. SEBI undertakes recruitment and promotions exercises periodically to fill up the vacancies. The respondent also stated that the details regarding recruitment exercise are published on SEBI website.

5. **Ground of appeal** – On perusal of the appeal, it appears that the appellant is not satisfied with the response of the respondent.
6. I have perused the application and the response provided thereto. With regard to query no.1, the appellant, in his appeal, has submitted that the links in the response of the respondent does not provide the information sought by him. According to the provided link, the marks obtained by candidates in Phase II examination

for recruitment of Officers Grade 'A' (Assistant Manager), 2025 can be accessed only with the input of relevant credentials on SEBI website by the respective candidate. Hence, I find that said information cannot be accessed by the appellant from the said link. Hence, I find that the query no. 1 has not been adequately addressed and warrants reconsideration.

7. With regard to query nos. 3 & 4, I note that the requested information is not readily available with the respondent in the manner as sought by the appellant and that the respondent would be required to analyse and collate information. In this regard, I note that Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in its judgment dated 04.12.2014 in case of *The Registrar, Supreme Court of India vs. Commodore Lokesh K. Batra and Ors.* [W.P.(C) No. 6634/2011] had held: "*11. Insofar as the question of disclosing information that is not available with the public authority is concerned, the law is now well settled that the Act does not enjoin a public authority to create, collect or collate information that is not available with it. There is no obligation on a public authority to process any information in order to create further information as is sought by an applicant.....*" Further, analysing and collating the requested information would disproportionately divert the resources of SEBI and would defeat 'the practical regime of right to information' as envisaged in the preamble of the RTI Act. In this context, I note that the Hon'ble Central Information Commission (hereinafter referred to as "**CIC**"), in the matter of *Mr. Deepak Girdhar vs. CPIO, SEBI* (Order dated March 30, 2021), observed that "*6. The Commission, after hearing the submissions of the respondent and after perusal of records, observes that the information sought by the appellant is voluminous in nature and may not be readily available with the CPIO in the manner as sought by the appellant, collating and compiling of which would disproportionately divert the resources of the respondent organization. Hence, the disclosure of information is exempted as per Section 7(9) of the RTI Act.*" In view of these observations, I find that the requested information is exempt from disclosure under section 7(9) of the RTI Act
8. With regard to query no. 5, I note that the respondent has adequately addressed the query by providing the information available with him.
9. Considering the above observations, I remit the application to the respondent for *de novo* consideration of query no. 1 and sending appropriate response to the appellant in terms of RTI Act, within 15 working days from the date of receipt of this order.

10. The Appeal is accordingly disposed of.

Place: Mumbai

Date: September 09, 2026

RUCHI CHOJER

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