

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

Appeal No. 7026 of 2026

Samar Imran : Appellant

Vs

CPIO, SEBI, Mumbai : Respondent

ORDER

1. The appellant had filed an application dated July 16, 2026 (received by SEBI through RTI MIS portal) under the Right to Information Act, 2005 ("**RTI Act**"). The respondent, by a letter dated August 05, 2026, responded to the application filed by the appellant. The appellant filed an appeal dated August 06, 2026 (Reg. No. SEBIH/A/E/26/00293). 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:

"1. With reference to RTI Application No. SEBIH/R/E/26/00579, First Appeal No. SEBIH/A/E/26/00174, First Appellate Authority Order No. 6877 of 2026 dated 09/06/2026, and the CPIO's Compliance Reply No. CPIO/BS/FAA-6877/2026-27/16998 & dated 24/06/2026, wherein it has been stated that:

"The term 'equivalent certificate' has been used to provide flexibility to investors for submission of documents as proof of legal heirship which carry the same objective as that of Legal Heirship Certificate."

Kindly provide certified copies of the records, file notings, internal communications, guidelines, or any other documents relied upon while furnishing the above statement.

2. Whether the Family Membership Certificate/Family Member Certificate issued by a competent authority of Andhra Pradesh Government is acceptable as equivalent to that of Legal Heirship Certificate as stated in the said Compliance Reply.

3. *If not, kindly confirm which document has been acceptable as same objective from the state of Andhra Pradesh. I request that the information be furnished in the form of certified copies wherever available on record.*”

3. **Reply of the Respondent** – The respondent, in response to query nos. 1 to 3 in the application, informed that the information sought is in the nature of seeking clarification/ opinion. Accordingly, the same cannot be construed as “information”, as defined u/s 2(f) of the RTI Act.
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. On consideration, I find that the information sought is in the nature of seeking clarification/opinion/confirmation from the respondent. I find that the said queries cannot be construed as seeking ‘information’ as defined under section 2(f) of the RTI Act. Consequently, the respondent did not have an obligation to provide such clarification or opinion or confirmation under the RTI Act. In this context, reliance is placed on matter of *Azad Singh vs. CPIO, Oriental Insurance Company Limited* (order dated March 23, 2021) wherein Hon’ble Central Information Commission(CIC) observed that “7. *The Commission, after hearing the submissions of both the parties and after perusal of records, observed that some queries of the appellant are in the nature of seeking explanation/ opinion/ advice/ confirmation/ clarification from the CPIO and he has expected that the CPIO firstly should analyze the documents and then provide information to the appellant. But the CPIO is not supposed to create information; or to interpret information; or to compile information as per the desire of the appellant under the ambit of the RTI Act. As per Section 2(f) of the RTI Act, the reasons/ opinions/ advices can only be provided to the applicants if it is available on record of the public authority. The CPIO cannot create information in the manner as sought by the appellant. The CPIO is only a communicator of information based on the records held in the office and hence, he cannot be expected to do research work to deduce anything from the material therein and then supply it to him.*” 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 03, 2026

RUCHI CHOJER

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