BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY BOARD OF INDIA

2nd Floor, Jeevan Vihar Building Sansad Marg, New Delhi - 110 001 **Dated: 4th January, 2022**

RTI Appeal Registration No. ISBBI/A/E/21/00033

IN THE MATTER OF

Ravi Kanth Aluvala

Vs.

Central Public Information Officer

The Incolvence and Benkeynter Board of India

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India 2nd Floor, Jeevan Vihar Building Sansad Marg, New Delhi- 110 001.

... Respondent

ORDER

- 1. The Appellant has filed present Appeal dated 8th December 2021, challenging the communication of the Respondent dated 8th December 2021 with regard to his RTI Application No. ISBBI/R/E/21/00182 dated 13th November 2021 filed under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act).
- 2. The Appellant in his RTI application has requested following details of Individual Registered Valuer with registration number 12227
 - a. Copy of certificate of registration issued by IBBI,
 - b. Current Status of particular RV Registration whether active or non-active, and
 - c. Number of years of past work experience mentioned in Form A application at the time of RV registration both in employment and self practise.
- 3. The Respondent, in his response dated 8th December 2021, had replied that the details of the Registered Valuers (RVs) are placed on the website of IBBI at https://ibbi.gov.in/service-provider/rvs, and that the copy of certificate of registration and supporting documents are personal information under section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act.
- 4. Being not satisfied with above response, the Appellant has stated that he never asked for full copy of certificate of registration application and its supporting documents, and therefore, it is not in nature of personal information exempted under section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act. Rather, he had asked for following information which is not available on the website of IBBI
 - a. Copy of Certificate of RV Registration issued by IBBI to registration number 12227,
 - b. Current Status of RV Registration number Active or Non-Active, and
 - c. No. of years of past work experience mentioned in Form A application at the time of both unemployment and self practise by RV Registration number 12227.

- 5. I have carefully considered the application, response of the Respondent and the Appeal; and find that the matter can be decided based on the material available on record. The Appellant's "right to information" envisaged in section 3 of the RTI Act is subject to the provisions of the Act. In terms of section 2(f) of the RTI Act, 'information' means any material in any form, including records, documents, memos e-mails, opinions, advices, press releases, circulars, orders, logbooks, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models, data material held in any electronic form and information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any other law for the time being in force. Further, section 2(j) of the RTI Act defines the "right to information" in term of information accessible under the Act which is held by or is under the control of a public authority. Thus, if the public authority holds any information in the form of data, statistics, abstracts, etc. an applicant can have access to the same under the RTI Act subject to exemptions under section 8.
- 6. On perusal of Appellant's request in his application and in this Appeal, I find no difference between them at all. The Appellant has categorically asked for copy of certificate of registered valuer with regard to the registration no. 12227. It is nothing but a wishful and roving inquiry by saying that he has not asked for the full copy of the certificate of registration. Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act exempts information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest. The certificate of registration issued by IBBI to the RV is a document which has personal information of such RV and the disclosure of the same has no relationship to any public activity or interest. Therefore, the copy of certificate of registration of RV is exempted under section 8(1)(j).
- 7. With regard to second query, I find that this information would also be personal information with regard to the concerned RV and be exempted under section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act. Further, IBBI does not maintain status of the RVs on the basis of being 'active or non-active' as the same is not mandated under the Companies (Registered Valuers and Valuation) Rules, 2017 (Rules). However, the IBBI website clearly indicates if any registration has been surrendered/suspended/cancelled under the said Rules. Also, the RV registrations which have not been surrendered/suspended/cancelled can be considered to be active. Hence, no further information is required to be provided to the Appellant.
- 8. The Appellant further wants to know the number of years of past work experience as mentioned in Form A application by the RV. Such information is also personal in nature and the disclosure as such has no relationship to any public activity or interest. Hence, same is also exempted under section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act. The information relating to the professional experience of the RV is an information which is also commercial in nature and the disclosure of the same can harm the competitive position of the said RV. Accordingly, it is also exempted under section 8(1)(d) of the RTI Act
- 9. In view of the above, I find that there is no need to interfere with the decision of the Respondent.

10. The Appeal is dismissed accordingly.

Sd/ (Santosh Kumar Shukla) First Appellate Authority

Copy to:

- 1. Appellant, Ravi Kanth Aluvala
- 2. CPIO, The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, 2nd Floor, Jeevan Vihar Building, Sansad Marg, New Delhi 110 001.