

IN THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL

NEW DELHI BENCH

Appeal No.756/252/ND/2018

IN THE MATTER OF:

MANI DHARI AGRO PVT. LTD.
1745,Hardayal Street, Nai Sarak
New Delhi- 110006

...Petitioner

VERSUS

THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES

...Respondent

Order Delivered on: 18.09.2018

CORAM:

MS. INA MALHOTRA, MEMBER(JUDICIAL)

MS. DEEPA KRISHNA, MEMBER (TECHNICAL)

PRESENT- CA Anil Kumar Sujanti & CS Madhu Chopra for the Appellant
Mr. Shobit Srivastava for the RoC

ORDER

Per Ms. Ina Malhotra (Member Judicial)

This Appeal has been filed by M/S Mani Dhari Agro Private Limited CIN:
U74899DL1998PTC032157, invoking the provision of section 252 of
the Companies Act, 2013 for restoration of the name of the appellant

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company in the register maintained by the Registrar of Companies, NCT of Delhi and Haryana.

2. As per the averments Mani Dhari Agro Private Limited was incorporated on 20.06.1988 and has its registered office at 1745, Hardayal Street, Nai Sarak, New Delhi- 110006 within the jurisdiction of this Tribunal.

3. A sweeping action was initiated by the RoC at the instance of MCA in striking of the names of several Companies who had failed to file their Statutory Returns. The appellant had failed to file its Annual Returns and Financial Statements after the Financial Year Ending 31.03.2013 thereby giving rise to the surmise that the business of the company was not in operation. Consequently, its name was struck off by the Respondent from the Register of Companies under Section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013, upon taking steps in accordance with law and issuing a notification in the Official Gazette. The names of the affected companies were posted on its website.

4. The appellant company admits its default in carrying out the statutory compliances but submits that the same was due to medical averments of the director, that the management of the company could not file Annual Accounts & Annual Return with RoC.



5. The appellant invokes the equitable jurisdiction of the Bench on the grounds of having investments and assets. In support of the same, the appellant has filed a statement of the shares held by it in various companies, as well as the copies of the share certificate held by it in the physical form. The appellant has been receiving dividends as well as interest from fixed deposits which is evidenced through Form 26AS in respect of the TDS deducted on the interest component. ITRs have also been filed. The Balance Sheet of the appellant company duly reflects the income received.

6. The provisions pertaining to restoration of the name of the company has been provided in Section 252 of the Companies Act, 2013 which includes that if in the opinion of the Tribunal it is considered just and equitable to restore the name of the company in the Register of Companies, it may direct the RoC to restore the name in its Register.

7. The case of the appellant is covered by a catena of judgments where restoration has been duly allowed. As per the law laid down, a chance should be given to the company, its members and creditors to revive the company, giving them the opportunity of carrying on the business if the court is satisfied that such restoration is necessary in the interest of justice.



8. An appraisal of the submission made in paragraph 5 above reflects that the appellant has certain Assets which necessitate restoration of its name in the Register of Companies. Merely to disallow restoration on grounds of its failure to file annual returns would neither be just nor equitable. As per several decisions of various Courts it should only be in exceptional circumstances that Courts should refuse restoration where the company has been struck off for its failure to file annual return as that would be excessive or inappropriate penalty for that oversight.

9. Accordingly, the petition is allowed subject to payment of costs of Rs. 25,000/- to the Prime Minister Relief Fund. The restoration of the petitioner company's name in the Register will be subject to their filing all outstanding documents for the defaulting years as required by law and completion of all formalities, including payment of any late fee or other charges which are leviable by the respondent for the late filing of statutory returns. The name of the petitioner company shall then stand restored in the Register of the Registrar of Companies (RoC), as if its name of the company had not been struck off.

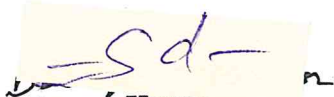
10. The direction for freezing the Bank Account(s) of the appellant company, if on this ground, shall consequently be also set aside immediately to enable the company carry out its business operation.



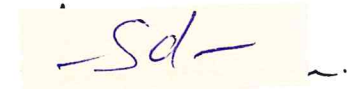
Compliance of this order for restoration shall be made by the respondent with all its consequential effects within one week of compliance by the appellant.

11. The petition is disposed of accordingly.

12. Let the copy of the order be served to the parties.


Deepa Krisnan

Member (T)


Ina Malhotara

Member (J)