

IN THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
BENGALURU BENCH

C.P.NO.221/BB/17

Under Section 252(3) of Companies Act, 2013

IN THE MATTER OF
LIMO CABS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
Vs
REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES, KARNATAKA

Coram: 1. Hon'ble Shri.Ratakonda Murali, Member Judicial
2. Hon'ble Shri.Ashok Kumar Mishra, Member Technical

Order delivered on 22nd January, 2018

For the Petitioner (s): Mr. Krishna Prasad, Practising Company Secretary

Per: Hon'ble Shri.Ratakonda Murali, Member Judicial

Heard on.14.12.2017, 5.1.2018, 8.1.2018, 18.1.2018

LIMO CABS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
No.30, Sri Ranga Apartments, 11th Cross
1st Temple Road, Malleshwaram,
Bangalore-560003

Vs

REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES, KARNATAKA
'E' Wing, 2nd Floor, Kendriya Sadana,
Kormangala, Bangalore-560034.

ORDER

The Petitioner Company M/s Limo Cabs India Private Limited has filed the present petition under Section 252(3) of the Companies Act, 2013 with a prayer for issuance of directions to the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka to restore the name of the Company as originally existed in its register and continue its name on the register of Registrar of Companies

The averments made in the petition are as follows:

The Petitioner Company was originally incorporated on 12th June, 2013 under the name and style of "Limo Cabs India Private Limited" in the State of Karnataka vide CIN No.U60220KA2013PTC069659. The Registered Office of the Petitioner Company is situated at No.30, Sri Ranga Apartments, 11th Cross, 1st Temple Road, Malleshwarm, Bangalore-560003.

The Authorised Capital of the Petitioner Company is Rs.10,00,000/- divided into 10,000 equity shares of Rs.10/- each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital is Rs.10,00,000/- divided into 10,000 of Rs.10/- each.

The object of the Petitioner Company is to engage in the business of cab operator services and maxi cab operator services on a rental basis, operating and running of buses, mini buses, tourist vehicles and conveyance of all kinds of transport of passengers, goods, commodities and merchandise. For this purpose, own, run and maintain all types of commercial and non commercial vehicles. **The copy of Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association is shown in Annexure-3&4.**

The Petitioner Company states that its name has been struck off by the Registrar of companies, Karnataka in the month of July, 2017. The Petitioner Company further states that the directors were travelling during said period and they were not aware of the notice served by the Registrar of companies, Karnataka under Section 248(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 in Form STK-1. Since the Registrar of Companies did not receive any response within 30 days of the notice the name of the Company was struck off.

The Petitioner Company further averred that Company has received the notice from the Registrar to file the Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Account, Cash Flow Statement and the Annual Return continuously for the immediate past two years.

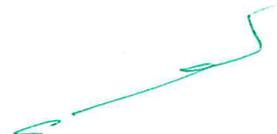
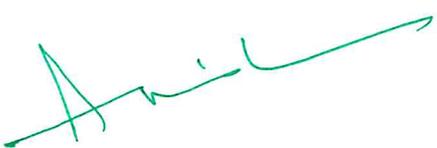
The Petitioner Company further states that the Company is doing its business on an “on going concern’ basis. Certified true copies of audited financial statements, auditor’s report and directors report along with the annual returns for the Financial year 2014-15 and 2015-16 Annexure V of the petition and by way of memo dated 5th December, 2017.

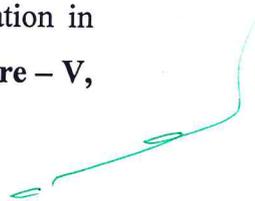
The Tribunal vide order dated 14th December, 2017 directed the Petitioner Company to issue notice to the Registrar of Companies and the matter was listed for hearing on 17th November, 2017. The Petitioner Company had filed the Affidavits dated 16th November, 2017 of the Directors of the Petitioner Company stating that no abnormal amounts has been deposited in the Company’s Bank Accounts during Demonetization period and further states that the Petitioner Company has not received any notice from any Income Tax Authorities in post demonetization period.

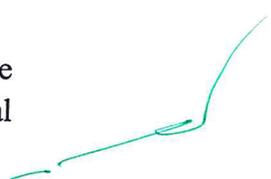
The Petitioner Company had filed the Affidavit dated 16th November, 2017 of the Directors of the Petitioner Company stating that the Company Undertakes to file the overdue returns such as Balance Sheets, Annual Returns and such other documents that are necessary, within 30 days from the date of restoration of name of the Company by the Registrar of Companies.

The Registrar of Companies has filed Counter affidavit dated 21st December, 2017 along with the Annexures. He denies all the averments made in the Petition save the averments which are specially admitted herein below and submit his counter to the Petition as under:

- i.) The Petitioner Company is registered with the Registrar of Companies on 12/06/2013 with CIN No. U60220KA2013PTC069659 and as per the records of the Company in MCA 21 portal. The Registered Office address is No.30, Sri Ranga Apartments, 11th Cross, 1st Temple Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003. The copy of the Company Master Data is shown as **Annexure I**.



- ii.) It is submitted that on verification of the MCA 21 Portal in the month of March 2017 when action under section 248(1) of the Companies Act, 2013(hereafter called as the 'Act') was initiated against the eligible Companies it was seen that the Petitioner Company has not filed either the Balance Sheet or the Annual Returns from the year 2014-15 to till 2015-2016. Therefore the Respondent had reasonable cause to believe that the Petitioner Company is not carrying on any business or operation and therefore a notice in Form STK-1 dated 17th March, 2017 was sent to the company. The copy of the said notice is shown as **Annexure II**. Further STK-1 notice dated 31/03/2017 was sent to the company Mr.Riyaz Pasha, Mr.Firdos Kousar, Mr.Elyaz Pasha, and Mr.Imtiyaz Pasha Directors of the Company to the address available in the MCA 21 portal. Copies of the notices sent to the Directors are produced and marked as **Annexure-III & IV respectively**.
- iii.) In the said notice STK-1 that was sent to the company and the directors of the company, it was mentioned that the petitioner company has defaulted in filing of the returns for two immediately preceding financial years and that the respondent proposes to strike off the name of the company from the Register of company as per Sec 248 of the Act unless a cause is shown to the contrary with 30 days from the date of receipt of the STK-1 notices.
- iv.) It is submitted that a consolidated notice in STK-5 in English and Hindi was released as per Rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of name of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rule, 2016, in the Official website of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on 28.04.2017 and in the official Gazette on 20.05.2017 and the same was published in the newspaper in Kannada in Vijay Karnataka (Kannada Edition) and in English in the Times of India on 13.05.2017 and in all the above said notice i.e. STK-1, STK-5 and STK-5A, 30 days' time was given to show cause to the contrary to the action of strike off. Copies of the notice in website, Official Gazette and paper publication in Vijay Karnataka and the Times of India are shown as **Annexure – V, VI, VII, VIII respectively**.
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- v.) It is submitted that since neither cause was shown to either the physical notices or to the website, Gazette and newspaper notices either by the Company or by its Directors, and also since no Balance Sheet or Annual Return was filed by the Petitioner company till 21.06.2017 the day on which the list of defaulting companies were crystallized, the Respondent proceeded to strike of the name of the Petitioner Company from the Register of Companies and published a notice in STK-7 in the homepage of the MCA on 17.07.2017. A copy of the said STK-7 Notice is shown as **Annexure -IX**. It was also published in the official Gazette on 29.07.2017 stating that the from 17.07.2017 names of the companies mentioned therein including the petitioner company have been struck off from the Register of Companies as per sec 248(5) of the Act. A copy the publication made in the Official Gazette on 29.07.2017 is shown as **Annexure-X**.
- vi.) It is stated that the company has cited pre-scrutiny error as a reason for not filing the annual reports and balance sheets. The company has not filed the Balance Sheet and the Annual Report for the year 2014-15, 2015-2016. It may be seen that the ROC has sent the STK-1 notice to the company and its Directors exactly to the same address mentioned in the MCA 21 portal. The petitioner though has not claimed anywhere in the petition that it is a functioning company, has however enclosed the copies of the Balance sheet of the year 2014-15 to 2015-16 in Annexure V of the Company petition herein.
- vii.) There is no prosecution, inspection, technical scrutiny and compliant pending against this company.
- viii.) Though the Petitioner has not claimed it is an active or a functioning, the petitioner has attached the Balance Sheet for the year 2014, 2015, 2016 and has prayed that the name company be restored to the Register of Companies under section 252 of the Act. Subject to the satisfaction of this Hon'ble Tribunal and in the event of this Hon'ble Tribunal willing to revive the company, then the Respondent humbly prays that this Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly,
- a) Direct the petitioner to undertake to file the overdue returns upto date within 30 days in the MCA 21 Portal
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- from the date of the order of NCLT reviving the company and comply with the provisions of Companies Act, 2013;
- b) Direct the Petitioner to pay costs as decided by this Hon'ble Tribunal to be paid to the account of Central Government favouring the Pay and Accounts Officer, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Southern Region, Chennai, towards the expenses incurred by the Respondent in taking Section 248 action, like postage, stationary, advertisement charges etc.
 - c) Direct that the revival order be automatically vacated if the above compliance are not made within a maximum period of 30 days from the date of the receipt of the order of the Petitioner.

The Registrar of Companies has exercised its power under Section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with (Removal of name of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016 after following the procedure as per the law, giving opportunity to the Petitioner Company to file its Statutory Returns and upon non-filing of Statutory Returns the name of the Company was struck off.

On perusal of the affidavit of the Registrar of Companies, it appears that the name of the company was struck off, for failure on the part of the company to file the statutory documents since 2014, as mandatorily required under the Act.

The Director of the Petitioner Company has filed Affidavit dated 5th January, 2018 stating that the company was incorporated on 12th June, 2013 and started carrying its business from the date of incorporation and started generating revenues from the first financial year itself and its revenue started increasing from the year to year. During the Financial year 2016-17 the company had reached turnover of Rs.13,48,17,940/-. In this connection and documents submitted, to show the company was carrying its business till the date of strike off, which shows that the company is ongoing concern concept.

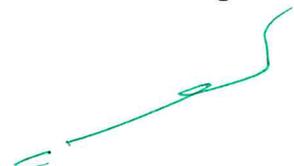
The Counsel for Petitioner Company has filed memo dated 8th January, 2018 in order to establish that the company is on going concern. The counsel furnished the Service Tax

Certificate, Bank Statement Copy, GST Certificate, Invoice copies raised by the company, Vendor Invoice copies to establish that the company is on going concern at the time of Strike off. Therefore the company name may be restored.

The Petitioner Company has committed default in not filing the Statutory Returns for the Financial Years 2014-15 to till 2015-2016 before the Respondent i.e. Registrar of Companies. The Petitioner in order to show that the company was carrying out business on the date of receipt of notice in Form STK-1 as well as on the date of struck off provided Audited Balance Sheet for the Period from 2014 -2015 till 2015-2016 along with this Petition to show its bonafide of carrying the Business. **The copies of the Audited Balance Sheet for the said period are shown as Annexure V of the petition and by way of memo dated 5th December, 2017.**

Section 252(3) stipulates that "if a company, or any member or creditor or workman thereof feels aggrieved by the company having its name struck off from the Register of Companies, the Tribunal on an application made by the company, member, creditor or workman before the expiry of twenty years from the publication in the Official Gazette of the notice under subsection (5) of Section 248 may, if satisfied that the company was, at the time of its name being struck off, carrying on business or in operation or otherwise it is just that the name of the company be restored to the register of companies, order the name of the company to be restored to the register of companies, and the Tribunal may, by the order, give such other directions and make such provisions as deemed just for placing the company and all other persons in the same position as nearly as may be as if the name of the company had not been struck off from the register of companies."

After hearing the Counsel for the Petitioner Company and perusal of the material on record the report of the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka and on going through the provisions of Section 252(3) of the Companies Act, 2013, this Tribunal is of the view that the company was in existence and it is a going concern name of the Company to be restored in the Register of Companies as maintained by Registrar of Companies.

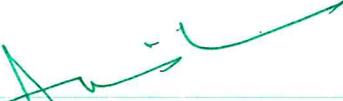


THIS TRIBUNAL DO FURTHER ORDER

The Petitioner Company shall within thirty days of the date of the receipt of this order cause a certified copy of this Order along with the copies of Audited Balance Sheet and other Statutory filings for the period of default i.e. from 2014-2015 to till 2015-2016 and the subsequent year in prescribed format as required under the Companies Act, 2013 be filed with the Registrar of Companies,

The Petitioner Company is directed to pay Rs.50,000/- as cost to the account of Central Government in favour of the Pay & Accounts Officer, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Sothern Region, Chennai and D.D. drawn to be handed over to Registrar of Companies, Karnataka Bangalore.

The Registrar of Companies, Karnataka is further directed to restore the name of the Petitioner company i.e. LIMO CABS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED in the Registrar of Companies within a period of 30 days from the date of this order, after charging necessary fee as may be applicable and also to accept Balance Sheet and other Statutory Returns after charging additional fee as required under the Companies Act, 2013.


(ASHOK KUMAR MISHRA)
MEMBER, TECHNICAL


22/1/14
(RATAKONDA MURALI)
MEMBER, JUDICIAL