

**IN THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
HYDERABAD BENCH, HYDERABAD.**

C.A. No.206/252/HDB/2017

U/s 252(3) of the Companies Act, 2013

In the matter of

Infinite Linked Solutions Private Limited
Plot No.4, Phase-I, 3rd Floor,
Advant Building, Kavuri Hills,
GuttalaBegumpet, Madhapur,
Hyderabad-500081, Telangana.

...Applicant

Versus

The Registrar of Companies, Hyderabad
for Andhra Pradesh & Telangana,
Corporate Bhavan, 2nd Floor,
GSI Post, ThattiAnnaram,
Bandlaguda, Hyderabad-500068.
Telangana.

...Respondent

Date of Order: 16.01.2018

C O R A M:

Hon'ble Shri Rajeswara Rao Vittanala, Member (Judicial)

Parties / Counsels present:

For the Applicant : Ms. Kritika, PCS

For the Respondent : Shri Josekutty V.E. DROC

Per: Rajeswara Rao Vittanala, Member (Judicial)

O R D E R

1. The Present Company Application bearing CA No.206/252/HDB/2017 is filed by M/s. Infinite Linked Solutions Pvt. Ltd, under Section 252(3) of Companies Act, 2013, by inter-alia seeking the following reliefs:



- a) To pass appropriate order for restoration of the name of the applicant in the Registrar of Companies, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
 - b) To pass appropriate order for the placing the applicant as nearly as may be as if the name of the applicant had not been struck off, etc
2. Brief facts of the case, as mentioned in the application, are as follows:
- a. M/s. Infinite Linked Solutions Private Limited (hereinafter referred to as the Applicant) was incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 on 02nd April, 2012 as a Private Limited Company with the Registrar of Companies, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
 - b. The main objects of the company is to carry on business of buyers, sellers, wholesalers, traders, importers, exporters, improvers, indenters, stockists, distributors, contractors, agents, licensors, franchisers, dealers, maintainers, exchangers, assemblers, and jobber sin all kind of telecommunication equipment, connections, accessories, spare parts, mobile and landline sets and connections of different sizes and specifications, all kind of software including Networking software, voice solutions, EPABX, Telecom software, computer telephony solutions, fax solutions, TTS (text to speech) solutions, telephone software etc.
 - c. The Authorized Share Capital of the Applicant is Rs. 10,00,000 [Rupees Ten Lakhs] divided into 1,00,000 (One Lakhs) Equity Shares of Rs 10/- (Rupees Ten) each. The Issued, Subscribed and Paid-up Share Capital of the Applicant is Rs. 10,00,000 [Rupees Ten Lakh] divided into 1,00,000 (one lakh) Equity Shares of Rs.10/- (Rupees Ten Only) each.



- d. The Company has not filed Annual Returns for the financial years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17. Hence the Company was served STK-1notice vide ROC/HYDERABAD/STK-1/Revised dated 05.05.2017, **U/s 248(1), (4) and (5) of the Companies Act, 2013** for non-filing of Annual Returns.
- e. The Company is Carrying out its business successfully from the date of its incorporation and is conducting the Annual General Meetings regularly in Compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 as well as the provisions of Companies Act, 2013, whichever is in force at the relevant period, and the Company has filed the Income Tax returns with the Income Tax Department regularly.
- f. The **Annual Accounts** and the **Annual Returns** pertaining to only three financial years i.e. 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are to be filed. The applicant shall be able to complete its filing of pending Annual Returns and Financial Statements, upon granting of the prayers stated in this application, and when the name is restored and change its status from 'Strike Off' to 'Active' in the Register of Companies maintained by the ROC and change.
- g. It is running its services and balance sheet showing the Assets and Liabilities of the Applicant company for the financial years 31.03.2015, 31.03.2016 are revenue from operations is Rs. 32,699,935/- and Rs.48,391,159/- respectively.
- h. The Company has commenced business in the recent past and it is ready to file its pending returns and income tax returns as required under the act and requesting to change the status of the Company to active from strike off and give such directions to the Registrar of Companies.



3. Heard Ms. Kritika Sharma, learned PCS for the Applicant and I perused all pleadings along with extant provisions of law.
4. Ms. Kritika Sharma, learned PCS for the Applicant, while reiterating various averments made in the application, has submitted that there are several irregularities committed while taking the impugned action like notices were not properly addressed, Paper publication was not made against the Applicant Company in leading newspapers as substitute service etc. She has further submitted that the Company is filing its Income Tax Returns with the Income Tax Department regularly, and the Annual Returns, and it is prepared to submit all the Annual Accounts and the annual Returns pertaining to the three Financial Years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 within the time stipulated by the Tribunal and also ready to pay the required Compounding Fee / Additional fee in accordance with the Rules.
5. She has also relied upon the judgment of the Hon'ble Bombay High Court in the matter of Purushottamdas and Anr. (Bulakidas Mohta Co. P Ltd.) Vs. Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra, &Ors., (1986) 60 Comp Cas 154 (Bom), by inter-alia stating that;

“the object of Section 560(6) of the Companies Act is to give a chance to the Company, its members and creditors to revive the company which has been struck off by the Registrar of Companies, within period of 20 years, and given them an opportunity of carrying on the business only after the company judge is satisfied that such restoration is necessary in the interest of justice.”

6. Shri Josekutty V.E. DROC by reiterating the averments made in his report Ref. No. ROCH/ LEGAL/ SEC252/ 80075/Infinite/STACK/2017 dated 13.12.2017, has



further stated that the impugned action was taken strictly in accordance with law and the allegations made by the applicant are not correct. However, he has submitted that the Tribunal may consider the case of the Company, subject to filing all pending returns namely annual returns, balance sheets with fee and addl. fees as prescribed under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013. It may also be directed to ensure statutory compliance of applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 without any delay in future.

7. In order to examine the issue of striking off companies, it is necessary to advert to relevant provisions in Companies Act, 2013, and the relevant provisions are sections 248 and 252 of The Companies Act 2013.

Chapter XVIII deals with Removal of Companies from the Registrar of Companies.

Power of Registrar to remove name of company from register of companies

248 (1) Where the Registrar has reasonable cause to believe that—

- (a) *a company has failed to commence its business within one year of its incorporation;*
- (b) *the subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay within a period of one hundred and eighty days from the date of incorporation of a company and a declaration under sub-section (1) of section 11 to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation; or*
- (c) *a company is not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has not made any application within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455, he shall send*



a notice to the company and all the directors of the company, of his intention to remove the name of the company from the register of companies and requesting them to send their representations along with copies of the relevant documents, if any, within a period of thirty days from the date of the notice.

- (5) At the expiry of the time mentioned in the notice, the Registrar may, unless cause to the contrary is shown by the company, strike off its name from the register of companies, and shall Gazette of this notice, the company shall stand dissolved.
- (6) The Registrar, before passing an order under sub-section (5), shall satisfy himself that sufficient provision has been made for the realisation of all amounts due to the company and for the payment or discharge of its liabilities and obligations by the company within a reasonable time and, if necessary, obtain necessary undertakings from the managing director, director or other persons in charge of the management of the company:
Provided that notwithstanding the undertakings referred to in this sub-section, the assets of the company shall be made available for the payment or discharge of all its liabilities and obligations even after the date of the order removing the name of the company from the register of companies.



Appeal to Tribunal deals with under Section 252 of the Companies Act, which reads as follows:

- 252 (1) Any person aggrieved by an order of the registrar, notifying a company is dissolved under section 248 May file an appeal to the Tribunal within a period of three years from the date of the order of the Registrar and if the Tribunal is of the opinion that the removal of the name of the company from the Register of companies is not justified in view of the absence of any

of the grounds on which the order was passed by the registrar, it may under restoration of the name of the company in the register of the companies; provided that before passing any order under this section that liberal shall give a reasonable opportunity of making representations of being heard to the registrar, the company and all the persons concerned:

Provided further that if the registrar is satisfied that the name of the company has been struck off from the register of companies either inadvertently or on the basis of incorrect information furnished by the company or its directors, which requires restoration in the register of companies he may within a period of three years from the date of passing of the order of dissolving the companies under section 248, file an application before the tribunal seeking restoration of name of such company



- (2) *A copy of the order passed by the Tribunal shall be filed by the company with the registrar within 30 days from the date of the order and on receipt of the order the Registrar shall cause the name of the company to be restored in the register of companies and shall issue a fresh certificate of incorporation*
- (3) *If a company or any member or creditor or workmen d 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 workmen before the expiry of 20 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 Registrar of companies, order the name of the company to be restored to the Registrar of companies, the*

Tribunal may, by the order, give other such directions and make such provisions as deem just for placing the company and all the persons in the same position as merely as may be in the name of the company had not been struck off from the Register of companies.

8. As stated supra, there is a prescribed procedure under the Act as to how the Registrar of Companies has to strike off from the Register of companies. By reading the averments made in the application and the submissions made by the Learned Registrar of Companies, the impugned notices have been issued in accordance with law as stated supra. However, before taking final action to strike off a Concerned Company U/s 248(5), the Registrar of Companies, is duty bound to follow proviso 6 of section 248, which mandates the Registrar of Companies to satisfy himself that sufficient provisions have been made for realization of all amounts due to the Company and for payment or discharge of its liabilities and obligations etc. In the instant case, as stated supra, the Company is carrying on its normal business as per balance sheets, Income Tax returns etc, which are filed along with application. Therefore, in the interest of Company and its employees, and their families and public employment, the case has to be considered favourably. The employees, and staff are to be paid their wages for the services rendered. And thus, striking off the name of Company would also result in serious repercussions like Debit Freeze accounts of the Company with its Bankers etc. However, the Registrar of Companies has failed to see this issue before issuing the impugned Gazette notification, leading to workers/employees getting aggrieved by the impugned action. However, the appellant for the Company pleaded that in view of hardship, a lenient view may be taken by the Tribunal in the interest of justice.



9. As per section 252 (3) as extracted above, a Company, or any member or creditor workman, if they feel aggrieved by striking off its name, can approach the Tribunal by way of application, before expiry of 20 years after date of publication. On being filed an application, the Tribunal can order to restore striking off company on its role, if it is 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 name of a company be restored to the Registrar of companies.

As narrated supra, it is not in dispute that application has been filed properly by an authorized person on behalf of Company, it is within limitation, it is carrying on business even at the time of impugned action, and it has suitably explained the reasons for not filing required documents with Registrar of Companies, which ultimately led to impugned action.



10. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has issued a notification dated 26th December 2016 framing the rules under section 248 known as Companies (Removal of names from the ROC) Rules, 2016.

Rule 3 (2) and (3) are relevant to the present case, which is extracted below for ready reference:

“3(2): for the purpose of sub rule (1) The Registrar shall give a notice in writing in the form of STK-1 which shall be sent to all the Directors of the company at the addresses available on record by registered post with acknowledgement due or by speed post

3(3): The notice shall contain the reasons on which the name of the company is to be removed from the Register of companies and shall seek representations, if any against the proposed action from the company and its directors

along with the copies of the relevant documents if any, within a period of 30 days from the date of notice

Manner of Publication of Notice:

The rule 7 is read as to manner of publication of notice:-

(1) the notice under subsection (1) or subsection (2) or section 248 shall be in form STK -5 or STK-6 , as the case may be and be-

- (I) placed on the official website of the Ministry of corporate affairs on a separate link established on such other website in this regard
- (II) Published in the official Gazette
- (III) Published in English language in leading newspaper and at least once in vernacular language in leading vernacular language newspaper, both having wide circulation in the state in which the registered office of the company is situated

Rule 9 deals with the Notice of striking off and dissolution of the company.

11. Article 19(g) in the Constitution of India 1950, confers right to all citizens of India to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, Trade or Business.

In accordance with this Constitutional provision, the Companies Act of 2013 also confer such rights to its citizen by permitting them to incorporate a Company under the Act to carry on any profession, Trade and Business. In the instant case, it is not in dispute that the Company is incorporated in accordance with Act and prima facie prove that the Applicant Company is following all extant provisions of Companies Act in consonance with its Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association of the Company till the impugned violation(s) are noticed. It is not in dispute that Registrar of the Companies is



empowered to take the impugned action but the only point here is that he has to strictly comply with provisions as extracted above. A Court/Tribunal cannot interfere with normal activities of business of a Company being carried on in accordance with law unless any serious violation of law is committed by a Company. As stated supra, the impugned violations are not so severe so as to take serious view of it. Moreover, the Company has come forward to file all required documents in accordance with law along with prescribed/additional fee and fine. It is also relevant to point out here that there is no bar for a Company, which is struck off, can register new company, in accordance with law.

- 12 As stated supra, the Company is in the business of all kinds of software including networking software and it is running without any interruption. The employees are suffering a lot by virtue of impugned action. In terms of section 248(6) of Act as extracted supra, the above consequences are required to be looked into while passing final order under 248(5) of the Act. It is no doubt that the Company, on its part, is under statutory obligation to comply with all extant provisions Companies Act, 2013. The Company is now satisfactorily explained to Tribunal the reasons for the delay in filing statutory returns in question and expressed its willingness to file them along with payment of prescribed fee.

As stated supra, the Learned ROC also did not oppose the application but it can be considered subject to compliance of statutory provisions and undertaking etc.

- 13 I have considered the pleadings of both the parties along with extant provisions of Companies Act, 2013. The Learned Counsel for the Applicant Company further submits that by virtue of impugned action of the RoC, the



financial transactions came to a standstill by freezing of bank account.

- 14 It is not in dispute that the impugned action was taken by the RoC strictly in accordance with law. However, in order to ease of doing business, it is necessary to facilitate the Company to function its normal business activities in accordance with Articles of Memorandum of Association and it is nobody's case that by restoring the Company, it would render any prejudice to any of the parties.
- 15 In light of aforesaid facts and circumstances of case and the extant provisions of the companies Act, 2013 and rules here under, I am satisfied that the applicant Company has filed the present application within prescribed time under law, and also shown sufficient reasons to order Restoration of its name in the Register of companies maintained by the Registrar of Companies. Therefore, the Company application deserves to be allowed, however, subject to filing all pending returns, Annual returns, Balance sheets, statements etc., along with prescribed and addl. fee under law. And also subject to giving undertaking that they would not resort to such type of violations in future.
- 16 By exercising the powers conferred on this Tribunal under Section 252 of the Companies Act, 2013, and Rule 87A of NCLT (Amendment) rules 2017 R/w NCLT Rules, 2016, the Company application bearing CA No.206/252/HDB/2017 is disposed of with the following directions:
 - 1) The Registrar of Companies, the respondent herein, is ordered to restore the original status of the Applicant Company as if the name of the company has not been struck off from the Register of Companies and take all consequential actions like change of company's status from 'strike off' to Active (for e-filing), to restore and activate the DINs, to



intimate the bankers about restoration of the name of the company so as to defreeze its accounts.

- 2) The Applicant company is directed to file all the statutory document(s) along with prescribed fees/ additional fee/fine as decided by ROC within 30 days from the date on which its name is restored on the Register of companies by the ROC;
- 3) The Company's representative, who has filed the Company application is directed to personally ensure compliance of this order.
- 4) The restoration of the Company's name is also subject to the payment of cost of Rs 30,000/- (Rupees Thirty thousand only) through online payment in www.mca.gov.in under miscellaneous fee by mentioning particulars as "payment of cost for revival of company pursuant to orders of Hon'ble NCLT in CA No.206/252/HDB/2017".
- 5) The applicant is permitted to deliver a certified copy of this order with ROC within thirty days of the receipt of this order.
- 6) On such delivery and after duly complying with above directions, the Registrar of Companies, Hyderabad is directed to, on his office name and seal, publish the order in the official Gazette;
- 7) This order is confined to the violations, which ultimately leads to the impugned action of striking of the Company, and it will not come in the way of ROC to take appropriate action(s) in accordance with law, for any other violations /offences, if any, committed by the applicant company prior or during the striking off of the company.



sd/-

RAJESWARA RAO VITTANALA
MEMBER (JUDICIAL)

प्रमाणित प्रति

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

केस संख्या

CASE NUMBER

निर्णय का तारीख

DATE OF JUDGEMENT

प्रति तैयार किया गया तारीख

COPY MADE READY ON

CA No. 206/252/HDB/2017

16.1.2018

9.2.2018

G. Anandha Kumar
FOR Dy. Regr./Asst. Regr./Court Officer/
National Company Law Tribunal, Hyderabad Bench