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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **W.P.(C) 11026/2017**

ROHAN GUPTA AND ORS

..... Petitioners

Through Mr Awnish Kumar, Advocate.

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ANR

..... Respondents

Through Mr Sanjay Jain, ASG with Mr Vinod
Diwakar, Mr Dev P. Bhardwaj, Advocate.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIBHU BAKHRU

ORDER

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21.12.2017

1. The petitioners have filed the present petition, *inter alia*, impugning a “lists of disqualified directors” published by respondent nos. 1 and 2 to the extent that it includes the names of the petitioners.
2. The petitioners claim that they are the Directors of private companies named Xerico Technologies Private Limited and Soulfeed Hospitality Private Limited (hereafter ‘the Companies’). The learned counsel appearing for the petitioners unequivocally states that the Companies have not carried out any business for the past three years and their bank accounts are also not in operation for the past three years. The petitioners also did not file the requisite returns as required under the Companies Act, 2013 (hereafter ‘the Act’). Consequently, the petitioners have incurred the disqualification under Section 164(2) of the Act.

3. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioners makes an unequivocal statement, on instruction of the petitioners, that the petitioners are desirous of availing of the Condonation of Delay Scheme -2018 (hereafter 'CODS - 2018'). However, since the Companies have been struck off from the Register of Companies, they have been disabled from availing the benefits of CODS - 2018.

4. The petitioners are also not in a position to seek revival of the companies by filing appeals under Section 252 of the Act, since admittedly the Companies have not carried out any business and were liable to be struck off from the Register. The petitioners state that, in fact, they would voluntarily seek dissolution of the Companies under Section 248(2) of the Act, if they have the opportunity to do so.

5. This Court is of the view that since, admittedly, the Companies are not carrying out any business and their bank accounts have not been operated for over three years, the petitioners ought to be provided the benefit of the CODS - 2018. Accordingly, this Court directs as under:-

- (a) The petitioners may file all the requisite returns in relation to the Companies to avail the CODS - 2018.
- (b) The petitioners may also file the necessary resolutions for voluntarily striking off the name of the Companies as required under Section 248(2) of the Act.
- (c) The petitioners would also make a necessary application under CODS - 2018 alongwith the requisite charges.

(d) The aforesaid documents and applications will not be submitted online but in hardcopies to the Registrar of Companies.

6. The Registrar shall scrutinize the same, and if the same are found to be otherwise in accordance with Section 248(2) of the Act, the petitioners would be granted the benefit of the CODS - 2018. The removal of the Companies from the Register under Section 248(1) of the Act would be deemed as striking off the Companies under Section 248(2) of the Act, and the petitioners' application under CODS - 2018 would be sympathetically considered by the Registrar.

7. Since an unequivocal statement is made by the petitioners that they would pay the necessary charges and make the necessary application under the CODS - 2018, the impugned list of the disqualified directors, in as much as it includes the names of the directors, is stayed till 31.03.2018 or up till such time as the respondents take a final decision in the matter.

8. This order has been passed with due assistance of the learned ASG, in the peculiar facts and circumstances of these cases.

9. It is clarified that if the petitioners do not avail of the CODS-2018 or file the necessary documents as required for dissolution of the Companies under Section 248(2) of the Act as stated above; in addition to other consequences, the petitioners would also be liable to be prosecuted for Contempt of Court.

10. It is further clarified that the aforesaid order is made on the basis of the unequivocal statements made on behalf of the petitioners above and in

the event the statements are found to be incorrect, the petitioners would be liable to be proceeded against contempt of court in addition to being subjected to other proceedings.

11. The petition and the pending applications are disposed of.

VIBHU BAKHRU, J

DECEMBER 21, 2017

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