

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

INTERIM APPLICATION NO.2634 OF 2022

IN

ARBITRATION PETITION NO.13 OF 2019

Ashokbhai Jethanand Valani and another through POA Mukesh Parsaram Rajpalani	...	Applicants
Vs. Sunil Bhagchand Talreja	...	Respondent

Mr. S. B. Rao i/b. Ms. Gauri S. Rao for Applicants.

CORAM : MANISH PITALE, J.**DATE : FEBRUARY 21, 2023****P.C. :**

1. This is an application filed under Section 29-A of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 in disposed off petition, seeking extension of mandate of the learned arbitrator, which expired some time ago.

2. The respondent was served with the application but there is no appearance on his behalf.

3. Learned counsel for the applicants has brought to the notice of this Court that after taking into consideration the orders passed by the Supreme Court in the context of the *Covid-19* pandemic for the period between March, 2020 to March, 2022, the date for concluding the arbitration proceedings was on or about 29.04.2022. It is submitted that the stage of the proceedings before the learned arbitrator was that the claimant was being cross-examined.

4. It is submitted that in the interest of justice, this Court may extend the mandate of the learned arbitrator at least by six months so that the proceedings can be completed and the award can be pronounced.

5. This Court has perused the contents of the application. Sufficient

grounds are indeed made out for granting the prayer made in the present application. Accordingly, the application is allowed and the mandate of the learned arbitrator is extended till 30.09.2023.

6. Interim Application is disposed of.

(MANISH PITALE, J.)

Minal Parab