

to the reason stated in impugned Order for rejection. This is yet another matter, where an inquiry about the grounds of rejection are required to be done for the first time in this Court.

4. In that view of the matter, we dispose of this petition by directing that the impugned order dated 23 August 2023 shall be treated as notice to the Petitioners of the proposed grounds of rejection. The Petitioners' proposal stands restored. If there are any other grounds on which Respondent No. 1 intends to reject the proposal, he is directed to communicate the same to the Petitioners within a period of 3 weeks from today.

5. The Petitioners shall thereafter submit their explanation to the proposed grounds of rejection, along with supporting material and case laws, government resolutions, orders of this Court etc. if relied upon. The Respondent No. 1 is directed to decide the proposal thereafter, by dealing with the explanation given by the Petitioners as also dealing with case law/orders of this Court, by passing a reasoned order, within a period of 8 weeks, subject to other time bound directions.

6. We have not expressed any opinion on the Petitioners' proposal and the same shall be decided on its own merits in accordance with law. Needless to mention that if the Respondent No. 1 proceeds to grant proposal as prayed, consequent benefits and orders will follow, and in that case, the aforesaid procedure/directions

will not apply.

7. The writ petition is disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

(M.M. SATHAYE, J.)

(NITIN JAMDAR, J.)