

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION(S) (CIVIL) NO(S) .188 OF 2004

M/S. RAIGANJ CONSUMER FORUM PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS. RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

Heard learned counsel for the parties at great length.

This court has passed an order on 9.5.2018 inviting further fresh bids. Pursuant thereto, advertisement was published in the newspapers namely the 'Indian Express', 'Hindustan Times' and 'Dainik Jagran'. Properties available for Sale - has been specified in Part-A; in Part -B 'Properties/lands under litigation before Court/Committee' has been detailed, in Part-C 'Surplus Land declared by the State of Punjab and Uttrakhand' was mentioned and in Part-D - Properties/Lands yet to be identified (as per Dr. Nanavati's Report) was mentioned. All the properties were for sale.

It was submitted by the learned counsel appearing for the investors and the learned counsel appearing for the Committee appointed by this Court and others that

valuation of the properties mentioned in the auction notice has not been done. It was pointed out that some valuation was carried out in the year 1998 by one of the Chartered Accountants. The valuation made in the year 1998 or by Hawk Group cannot be relied upon for making auction of the property as the value of the property has gone very high since then.

After hearing learned counsel for parties at length, we are of the considered opinion that it is absolutely necessary to obtain the current valuation of the property which may be sold and only thereafter to proceed further with the sale of property.

It was pointed out by Sh. P.S. Narsimha, learned Additional Solicitor General appearing for the State of Punjab and Sh. K. Radhakrishnan, learned senior counsel appearing for the Income Tax Department, that the Income Tax Department has the proper valuers as well as the Indian Institute of Cost Accountant, as such for the purpose of valuation.

In the circumstances, we constitute a team of three members, namely, Sh. S.S. Rathore, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Delhi, Sh. Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax-4, Delhi and Sh. Anup Kumar Dubey, Commissioner of Income

Tax (OSD), Delhi, to submit a correct valuation of the property.

For identifying the particular property, the Collector shall nominate the Revenue Officer of the rank of Sub-Divisional Officer or Tehsildar, of the concerned district and the valuation report shall be submitted to this Court. Let this exercise be completed and the plot numbers etc. shall also be furnished to this Court. Existing Committee may also submit the details of the property to this Court on affidavit as well as give a copy of the same to the team of Valuers appointed today so as to make the proper valuation of the property and also for its proper identification.

Concerned District Magistrate shall also assist the team of the Valuers to make the identification of the property for the purpose of its valuation and also as per Dr. Nanavati's reports if possible. The Committee appointed by this Court may also furnish the relevant data to this Court as well as to the team of the Valuers, so appointed.

It was also pointed out by the learned counsel appearing for the State of Punjab and Deputy Advocate General for the State of Uttrakhand that the surplus land declared by the State of Punjab and State of Uttrakhand

has also been included in the auction notice; the property declared surplus could not have been included in the auction notice for the purpose of sale as property of State Government which has already vested cannot be sold for the purpose of satisfaction of the debt if any incurred by the Golden Forest Group (GFG) and by others. We are of the prima facie opinion that the land that has been declared surplus and has vested in the State cannot be sold and consequently put to auction. There is some litigation about surplus land pending before the Court(s) including the one preferred by the Committee so as to seek declaration that property is not surplus property. Be that as it may, as the property has been declared surplus, prima facie without adjudicating conclusively upon said issue, it cannot be sold outrightly at this stage. We will take a final call upon this aspect at a later stage.

At present, we are not directing the valuation of the land that has been declared surplus by the State of Punjab and State of Uttrakhand. At the first instance, we want to obtain valuation report with respect to the properties mentioned in Part-A available for Sale and with respect to the property mentioned in Part B

'Properties/lands under litigation before Court/Committee' and also the property which can be identified out of Part-D. Let identification of Part-D property, if possible, as well as its valuation and also the fact that whether any part of it has been declared surplus be also reported to this Court.

In view of the aforesaid, we feel that it would not be appropriate to proceed any further with the auction notice that was so published. No bid has been offered pursuant to the advertisement. Hawk Capital (P) Ltd. has also not deposited the amount and has also withdrawn the bank guarantee. Be that as it may, what is the effect of the same and its consequence will be considered later. We have refrained to pass any order at this stage as the money is not in deposit and valuation has been ordered. The property can be auctioned only after fixing minimum price.

It was pointed out by Sh. Narender Hooda, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the investors that large amount of money is lying in deposit with the Committee which required to be distributed.

Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the Committee pointed out and submitted the following summary

of data of claims made by investors of Golden Forest India Ltd. (GFIL) as on 01.02.2017 and Golden Projects Ltd. (GPL) as on 01.02.2017, which are as under:-

**SUMMARY OF DATA OF GOLDEN FORESTS (INDIA) LTD.
AS ON 01-02-2017**

Bifurcation of Claims according to Deposit Amount

Sr.No.	Deposit Amount in Rs.	No. of Claims	Principal Amount	Amount Payable on Maturity
			(Rs. In Crores)	(Rs. In Crores)
1	1 - 1000	650888	52.59	6128.01
2	1001 - 2000	138852	25.69	1133.69
3	2001 - 3000	65073	17.95	229.80
4	3001 - 4000	35426	13.45	72.13
5	4001 - 5000	138937	68.98	770.31
6	5001 - 7000	35676	22.03	64.14
7	7001 - 10,000	115502	111.14	476.91
8	10,001 - 20,000	77523	125.35	287.04
9	20,001 - 30,000	37075	96.67	210.80
10	30,001 - 40,000	10395	38.64	71.39
11	40,001 - 50,000	17321	85.45	189.56
12	Above 50,000	11723	110.99	194.02
	Total	1,334,391	768.93	9827.81

**SUMMARY OF DATA OF GOLDEN FORESTS (INDIA) LTD.
AS ON 01-02-2017**

BIFURCATION OF CLAIMS ACCORDING TO DEPOSIT AMOUNT

Sr.No.	Deposit Amount in Rs.	No. of Claims	Principal Amount	Amount Payable on Maturity
			(Rs. In Crores)	(Rs. In Crores)
1	1 - 1000	650888	52.59	6128.01
2	1001 - 2000	138852	25.69	1133.69
3	2001 - 3000	65073	17.95	229.80
4	3001 - 4000	35426	13.45	72.13
5	4001 - 5000	138937	68.98	770.31
6	5001 - 7000	35676	22.03	64.14
7	7001 - 10,000	115502	111.14	476.91

8	10,001 - 20,000	77523	125.35	287.04
9	20,001 - 30,000	37075	96.67	210.80
10	30,001 - 40,000	10395	38.64	71.39
11	40,001 - 50,000	17321	85.45	189.56
12	Above 50,000	11723	110.99	194.02
	Total	1,334,391	768.93	9827.81

It was also stated by learned counsel appearing on behalf of the Committee that an amount of Rupees hundred crores has been attached by the Income Tax Department and apart from that approximately Rupees seven hundred crores is available for distribution to the investors.

As per number of claims received by the Committee, approximately nine hundred crores is the principal amount; first, we take care of the principal amount to be distributed amongst the investors. Amount of payment of interest/maturity value as assured shall be considered later after property is sold. In the circumstances, we direct that 70% of the principal amount be distributed out of the amount of Rupees seven hundred crores to each of the investors; whose claims have been received by the Committee. The number of claims have been mentioned in the aforesaid chart.

Since RBI has requested the Committee to engage

M/s. Karvey Investors Services Limited and as suggested by learned counsel appearing for the Committee as well as others also, we appoint M/s. Karvey Investors Services Limited; whose services may be adopted by the Committee for disbursement of the 70% of the principal amount which was invested by each of the investors. Let the process of distribution be completed within a period of three months from today.

Let the report of the Valuer be submitted. The rate prescribed by the Collector for the property be also furnished along with report within a period of two months from today.

There are certain other applications stated to be pending; they are also required to be looked into and decided. Let cases be listed for consideration of the pending applications on 16th August, 2018.

.....J.
[ARUN MISHRA]

.....J.
[S.ABDUL NAZEER]

NEW DELHI;
30TH JULY 2018.

