ITEM NO.1+3

Court 4 (Video Conferencing) SECTION XVII-A

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

Civil Appeal No.10856/2016

BHUPINDER SINGH

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

UNITECH LTD.

Respondent(s)

(With appln.(s) for PERMISSION, APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION, EARLY HEARING APPLICATION, EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT, EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., EXEMPTION FROM PAYING FEE, EXTENSION OF TIME, INTERVENTION, INTERVENTION/ COURT IMPLEADMENT, MODIFICATION OF COURT ORDER, PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE Т0 IN PERSON, PERMISSION FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, PERMISSION TO PLACE ADDITIONAL FACTS AND **GROUNDS and WITHDRAWAL OF CASE / APPLICATION)**

WITH S.L.P.(Crl) Nos.5978-5979/2017 (II-C)

(With appln.(s) FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING CERTIFIED AS WELL AS ORDINARY PLAIN COPY OF THE IMPUGNED ORDER, APPLICATION FOR SUBSTITUTION, APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, CLARIFICATION/ DIRECTION, EARLY HEARING APPLICATION, EXEMPTION FROM FILING INTERIM BAIL, INTERVENTION, INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, AFFIDAVIT, MODIFICATION, MODIFICATION OF COURT ORDER, PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND and PERMISSION ARGUE IN PERSON TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION, PERMISSION TO FILE SLP WITHOUT CERTIFIED/PLAIN COPY OF IMPUGNED ORDER, PERMISSION TO PLACE ON RECORD SUBSEQUENT FACTS, THE COURTS ORDER, SEEKING CUSTODY CERTIFICATE RECALLING and WITHDRAWAL OF CASE / APPLICATION)

S.L.P.(C) No.9572/2007 (XI)

(With appln.(s) for PERMISSION TO FILE ANNEXURES, EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION and APPROPRIATE ORDERS/ **DIRECTIONS** and **INTERVENTION**)

<u>C.A. No.11108/2016 (XVII-A)</u>

(Office report for direction with regard to FDR)

S.L.P.(C)...CC 5129-5130/2017 (XIV)

(With appln.(s) for PERMISSION TO FILE SLP)

C.A. No.5674/2017 (XVII-A)

2 C.A. Nos.9391-9404/2017 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and INTERVENTION/ IMPLEADMENT) C.A. No.10609/2018 (XVII-A) Diary No.40477/2018 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING and EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT) W.P.(C) No.51/2019 (X) (With appln.(s) for CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION) Diary No.4454/2019 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING and EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT) C.A. No.3236/2019 (XVII-A) C.A. No.3269/2019 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS) C.A. No.3935/2019 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION) Diary No.13860/2019 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING APPEAL) Diary No.13969/2019 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for I.R. and CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING) C.A. No.5177/2019 (XVII-A) C.A. No.5912/2019 (XVII-A) C.A. Nos.249<u>6-2497/2020 (XVII-A)</u> (With appln.(s) for EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING APPEAL, CONDONATION OF DELAY IN REFILING /CURING THE DEFECTS and CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION) CONMT.PET.(C) No.379/2020 in S.L.P.(Crl) Nos.5978-5979/2017 (II-C) CONMT.PET.(C) No.442/2020 in S.L.P.(Crl) Nos.5978-5979/2017 (II-C) CONMT.PET.(C) No.663/2020 in S.L.P.(Crl) Nos.5978-5979/2017 (II-C) C.A. No.10851/2016 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for PERMISSION TO FILE ANNEXURES, INTERVENTION/ IMPLEADMENT, CLARIFICATION/ DIRECTION, INTERVENTION and EXEMPTION FROM FILING 0.T) C.A. Nos.2511-2526/2017 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS) C.A. Nos.5174-5181/2017 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION and APPROPRIATE ORDERS/ DIRECTIONS)

<u>C.A. No.15493/2017 (XVII-A)</u>

(With appln.(s) for CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION and TRANSPOSITION) C.A. No.11008/2017 (XVII-A)

(With appln.(s) for EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, impleading party, APPROPRIATE ORDERS / DIRECTIONS and DELETING THE NAME OF RESPONDENT) C.A. No.16858/2017 (XVII-A) appln.(s) for CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION and **INTERVENTION**/ (With IMPLEADMENT) C.A. Nos.17008-17011/2017 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, APPROPRIATE CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION, FOR impleading party, INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT and TRANSPOSITION) C.A. No.20003/2017 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT) S.L.P.(C) Nos.30997/2017 (XVII-A) C.A. No.3727/2018 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for APPROPRIATE ORDERS/ DIRECTIONS) C.A. Nos.6837-6838/2018 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for EX-PARTE INTERIM DIRECTION) SLP(C) No. 12667/2018 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION and INTERVENTION/ IMPLEADMENT) Diary No(s). 20540/2018 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING APPEAL and CONDONATION OF DELAY IN REFILING/ CURING THE DEFECTS) C.A. No.8524/2018 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION) S.L.P.(C) No.30270/2018 (XVII-A) Diary No(s).1380/2019 (XVII-A) (With appln.(s) for CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING and EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT) C.A. No.5190/2019 (XVII-A) M.A. No.715/2021 in C.A. No.317/2021 No.32182/2021- APPROPRIATE (With appln.(s) for IA ORDERS/ DIRECTIONS)

Date : 25-08-2021 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE DR. JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.R. SHAH

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Mr. Yakesh Anand, Adv. Ms. Sonam Anand, Adv. Ms. Deepshika Sansanwal, Adv. Mr. Santhosh Krishnan, AOR Ms. Kamakshi S. Mehlwal, AOR Mr. Sanjay Jain, AOR Mr. Udayaditya Banerjee, AOR Mr. Sunder Khatri, Adv. Mrs. Shital Khatri, Adv. Mrs. Vandana Surana, Adv. Ms. Priya Kashyap, Adv. Ms. Vandana Surana, Adv. Mr. Rajesh Goyal AOR Mr. S. Rajappa, AOR Mr. T. Mahipal, AOR Mr. Tarun Gupta, AOR Mr. Vikram Singh, AOR Mr. Kaushik Poddar, AOR Ms. Divya Roy, AOR Mr. Aditya Singh, AOR Mr. Preshit Vilas Surshe, AOR Mr. Anupam Lal Das, Sr. Adv. Mr. Nakul Mohta, Adv. Ms. Misha Rohatgi Mohta, AOR Mr. Devansh Srivastava, Adv. Mr. P. S. Sudheer, AOR Ms. Filza Moonis, AOR Mr. Chandra Bhushan Prasad, AOR Mr. Ilin Saraswat, Adv. Ms. Swati Jain, Adv.

Mr. M. M. Kashyap, AOR Ms. Ilma Saifi, Adv. Mr. E. C. Agrawala, AOR Mr. Abhishek Aggarwal, Adv. Mr. Ravi Panwar, AOR Mr. Jay Kishor Singh, AOR Mr. M. R. Shamshad, AOR Mr. Rajeev Singh, AOR Mr. Sanjay Parikh, Sr. Adv. Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR Ms. Anupama Ngangom, Adv. Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv. Ms. Charu Mathur, AOR Mr. Siddharth, AOR Mr. Aniruddha P. Mayee, AOR Mr. Sunil Kumar Verma, AOR Mr. Birendra Kumar Mishra, AOR Mr. Abhinav Shrivastava, AOR Ms. Jaikriti S. Jadeja, AOR Ms. Rashi Bansal, AOR M/S. Devasa & Co. Mr. Aman Raj Gandhi, AOR Mr. Amit Sharma, AOR Mr. Mayank Goel, AOR Ms. Harsh Lata, AOR Mr. R Shubham Seth, Adv. Mr. Nikilesh Ramachandran, AOR

Mr. Gopal Jha, AOR Mr. Akshat Shrivastava, AOR Mr. Shashibhushan P. Adgaonkar, AOR Mr. Amit Kumar, AOR Mr. Kedar Nath Tripathy, AOR Mr. Balaji Srinivasan, AOR Col. Pahlad Singh Sharma, AOR Mr. Ajit Sharma, AOR Col Sushil Kumar Sharma, Adv. Ms. Mridula Ray Bharadwaj, AOR Mr. M.L. Lahoty, Adv. Mr. Paban K. Sharma, Adv. Mr. Anchit Sripat, adv. Mr. Himanshu Shekhar, AOR Dr. Vinod Kumar Tewari, AOR Mr. Awanish Kumar, AOR Mr. Aldanish Rein, AOR Mr. Kaustubh Anshuraj, AOR Mr. Krishna Kumar Singh, AOR Mr. Ashwarya Sinha, AOR Mr. Jaideep Gupta, Sr. Adv. Mr. Partha Sil, AOR Mr. Tavish B. Prasad, Adv. Ms. Rashmi Nandakumar, AOR Mr. Shantanu Krishna, AOR Ms. Jyoti Mendiratta, AOR Mr. Kaushik Choudhury, AOR

Mr. Ayush Sharma, AOR Mr. Vaibhav Kumar, AOR Mr. Aneesh Mittal, AOR Mr. Darpan KM, Adv. Ms. Amrita Sharma, Adv. Mr. Rajat Jonathan Shaw, Adv. Ms. Hetu Arora Sethi, AOR Mr. Pratap Shanker, Adv. Ms. Nupur Prasad, Adv. Mr. Ankit Kumar, Adv. Mr. Swetank Shantanu, AOR Mr. Utsav Trivedi, Adv. Mr. Abhinay, AOR Ms. Unnati Vijay, Adv. Ms. Aishwarya Samal, Adv. Mr. Arup Banerjee, AOR Mr. Sanjeev Sharma, Adv. Ms. Eshna Kumar, Adv. Mr. Udit Gupta, Adv. Mr. Anup Jain, Adv. For Udit Kishan & Associates Mr. Brijendra Singh, Adv. Mr. Shishir Kr. Saxena, Adv. Mr. R.N. Pareek, Adv. Mr. Jagdamba Singh, Adv. Ms. Payal Swarup, Adv. Ms. Archana Sharma, Adv. Mr. Praveen Swarup, AOR Ms. Shikha Dixit, in-person Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sr. Adv. Mr. Abhay Singh, Adv. Ms. Ankita Agarwal, Adv. Mr. Kaustubh Shukla, Adv.

CA 10856/2016

- 1 The report of the *Amicus Curiae* dated 11 August 2021 has annexed a copy of the Tax invoice submitted by M/s Grant Thornton (the auditors who were appointed to conduct a forensic audit by this Court) on 17 September 2021 for the submission of the final report dated 15 July 2021 including expenses quantified at Rs 54,21,084.
- 2 During the course of the previous hearing, the invoice being drawn to the attention of the Court, Mr N Venkataraman, ASG was requested to seek instructions from the Board of Management. The ASG states that there is no objection to the payment of the bill of the auditors.
- 3 The Registry is accordingly directed to disburse the amount of Rs 54,21,084 to M/s Grant Thornton towards full and final payment of their final invoice dated 17 September 2021. Since the tax invoice is inclusive of GST, the liability towards GST shall be borne by the auditors.

IA 50683 of 2021 (Project Management Consultants)

- 1 During the course of the hearing, from the material which has been placed on the record by Mr N Venkataraman, ASG, it has emerged that there are 74 residential and 10 commercial projects of Unitech Limited under construction under which possession of about 15,000 units has to be delivered to the home buyers. Simultaneously, the construction and completion of an unsold stock of about 4,000 units has to be taken up. Out of the above projects, 35 projects comprising of 8,008 units (5,918 'sold units' of which possession has to be given and 2,090 'unsold units') have been assigned to Assets Reconstruction Companies (ARCs).
- 2 There are three ARCs involved in the matter:
 - (i) Suraksha ARC;

- (ii) JM Financial ARC; and
- (iii) Edelweiss ARC.

It is common ground that of the above three ARCs, the assignment pertains to two of them, namely, Suraksha ARC and JM Financial ARC. All the three ARCs are represented before the Court by Mr Parag P Tripathi, learned Senior Counsel, Mr Chitranshul Sinha, learned counsel, and Mr Krishnan Venugopal, learned Senior Counsel.

- 3 In order to enter into a comprehensive settlement with the ARCs, the new Board of Management of Unitech Limited has proposed to enter into discussions with their senior management and to place agreed modalities before the Court. For this purpose, a Sub-Committee has been constituted by the new Board of Management which would conduct discussions with the ARCs.
- 4 We permit the new Board of Management to enter upon discussions with the ARCs and to place the modalities for the way forward before this Court, within a period of four weeks. All the ARCs shall cooperate with the new Board of Management by attending the meetings as and when convened for the purposes of resolving their claims.
- 5 It would be necessary to bear in mind the facts pertaining to the transaction with each ARC separately. In particular, Mr Krishnan Venugopal, Senior Counsel apprised the Court of the fact that there has been no project assignment to Edelweiss ARC.
- 6 Mr Ravindra Kumar, learned counsel, who appeared on behalf of NOIDA and Greater NOIDA submits that objections which have been filed to the resolution framework proposed by the new Board of Management, insofar as it impinges upon the rights of NOIDA and Greater NOIDA as land owning units and planning authorities.

- 7 At this stage, without this Court being required to go into the details under each head of objection, it would serve the ends of justice if the Sub-Committee nominated by the Board of Management of Unitech Limited and the concerned officials of NOIDA and Greater NOIDA at a senior level engage in discussions so as to provide a way forward which, while protecting the interests of these statutory authorities would protect the interests of the ultimate flat purchasers. We expect that both NOIDA and Greater NOIDA shall find a pragmatic solution to an issue which has been raised, including their demands. Both sets of bodies shall, therefore, cooperate with the new Board of Management for which meetings may be convened within a period of four weeks from today. The Court may be apprised of the progress which has been made pursuant to the meetings.
- 8 Mr Anil Grover, Senior AAG, appears on behalf of the State of Haryana and its authorities. Following the modalities which have been prescribed for discussions with the authorities of NOIDA and Greater NOIDA, similar discussions be conducted with the authorities of the State of Haryana within a period of four weeks from today so that the claims and demands which are outstanding and the licences and permissions which are required to be renewed can be specifically identified. The authorities of the State of Haryana shall nominate a nodal officer at a senior level for engaging in the discussions with the new Board of Management.
- 9 List IA 50683 of 2021 after four weeks.
- 10 List the matters tomorrow (26 August 2021) after fresh matters.

MA No 715/2021 in Civil Appeal No 317/2021

- 1 This miscellaneous application has been filed by the Board of Management of Unitech Limited for ensuring that compliance is effected by TSIIC with the final judgment of this Court dated 17 February 2021.
- 2 There is an outstanding issue in regard to the stamp duty and penalty payable on the Development Agreement.

- 3 A reply has been filed by the General Manager (AM) Legal of TSIIC. The affidavit encloses a notification of the Revenue (Registration-I) Department dated 1 April 2008 by which the earlier GOMs No 1475 Rev (Regn-I) Department dated 30 July 2005 has been withdrawn. A copy of a communication dated 25 May 2021 of the District Registrar, Ranga Reddy District is annexed. The District Registrar has quantified the deficit stamp duty at Rs 1,34,75,000 on which penalty of ten times the stamp duty has been imposed, amounting to Rs 13,47,50,000. Together with the penalty, a total demand of Rs 14,82,25,000 has been levied.
- 4 There is a judgment of a three-Judge Bench of this Court in *Trustees of H C Dhanda Trust vs State of Madhya Pradesh* (2020) 9 SCC 510 construing similar provisions which has been relied upon by Mr N Venkataraman, learned ASG. This Court has held that when ten times the amount of proper duty or deficient portion exceeds five rupees, a sum equal to ten times such duty or portion is required to be deposited. At the same time, the Collector is empowered to refund the penalty in his discretion, which ought to be exercised reasonably.
- 5 Having regard to the above decision, Mr C S Vaidyanathan, learned senior counsel appearing on behalf of TSIIC has suggested that the penalty payable on the deficit stamp duty may be computed on any reasonable basis and the authority would accept such a determination. In the judgment which has been referred to above, the penalty was modified by the order of this Court to five times. In our view, the ends of justice would be met if the total quantum of penalty is determined at three times the deficit stamp duty of Rs 1,34,75,000. There was a long standing litigation between the Unitech Limited and TSIIC until it was finally resolved by the judgment of this Court. The penalty is hence reduced in the facts and circumstances as noted above.
- 6 The balance which is due by TSIIC to the petitioners after adjusting the deficit stamp duty and penalty redetermined in the above terms, shall be paid over within a period of four weeks, in accordance with the judgment of this Court dated 17 February 2021.

7 The Miscellaneous Application is accordingly disposed of.

(CHETAN KUMAR) A.R.-cum-P.S. (SAROJ KUMARI GAUR) Court Master