ITEM NO.301 Court 2 (Video Conferencing) SECTION X

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 940/2017

BIKRAM CHATTERJI & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 49702/2020 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)

Date: 01-09-2020 This matter was called on for hearing today.

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UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following $\hbox{\bf O} \ \hbox{\bf R} \ \hbox{\bf D} \ \hbox{\bf E} \ \hbox{\bf R}$

Re: SBI CAPS

This petition and the connected matters have been engaging the attention of this Court to ensure that the unfinished "Amrapali" projects from NOIDA and Greater NOIDA are completed at the earliest. One of the issues that has arisen is about the funding and financing of said projects.

After prolonged discussion, SBI CAPS showed its willingness to fund and finance said projects. As regards creation of legal structure of an entity for receipt of funds and for creation of supervisory and monitoring mechanism, deliberations were held by the learned Receiver with the officials of SBI CAP. In his Note dated 24.08.2020 the learned Receiver stated:-

"As already submitted in the previous note, on the basis of interest of 12% stipulated by SBI CAP by reason of the terms of its constitution and its fund management the terms of lending to Amrapali projects etc require to be considered, at the threshold.

- 2. SBI CAP on its own may not deviate from its funding conditions, which are said to be being followed in other projects funded by it.
- 3. Since SBI operates subject to the mandate said to have been given to it by Government of India, which holds 49% interest in SBI CAP, it would be appropriate that the Government be directed to advice SBI CAP to adhere to an appropriate rate of Interest, other than 12% IRR.

4. It is further submitted that by reason of the said rate of interest and the stipulation of 5 years as the outer limit for winding up all operations and the stipulation of oversight committee etc, burden on the projects will be roughly to the tune of Rs 260 crore on an investment of Rs 6,25 Crore, which is a huge burden & the ability of the committee to utilize funds that will be available from sale of FARs or any other resource will also be curtailed."

The Note further stated that necessary directions be issued to see if the rate of interest could be scaled down with the intervention of the Central Government, Ministry of Finance and that NBCC, whose services are engaged to execute the projects may continue to carry on without any deviation from the current position. Two charts appended to the Note are extracted here:-

Rs. In Crores	6 Sites	Terrace Homes	Total
Sold Receivables	635	210	845
Unsolid Receivables	693	128	821
Total inflows	1328	338	1,666
Less: Cost Estimated by NBCC	-906	-533	-1,439
Less: NBCC Fees	-81	-48	-129
Less: Estimated admin, marketing and selling overheads	-80	-20	-100
Surplus (pre-cost of funding)	261	-263	-1.48
Cost of Funding @ 12% IRR	-180	-110	-290
Surplus (post cost of funding)	81	-373	-291

				DE	TAILS OF PROJ	ECTS (SBI	CAPS PROPO	SED TO FL	JNDING)					
S.N.	Project	Delivery	Project Cost	Unsold Units	Likely Receivable from Buyers (Residential) (in Cr.)		Likely Receivable from Buyers (Commercial) (in Cr.)		Likely Receivabl	Fund Receive d Till Date (A)	Likely SBI fundin g	Likely Value of Work till March 2021 i/c PMC & GST (B)	Likely Receivabl e from Homes Buyers till March 2021 (c)	Short fall till March 2021 (A+C-B)
				Y	Sold	Unsol d	Sold	Unsol d			v			
A.	Noida Projects													
1.	Silicon City 1	Jun-21		2		2.15								
2.	Silicon City 2	Jun-22	226.31	10	97.58	7.45	2.51	11.00	197.09	58.40	145	163.95	46.03	-59.52
3.	Crystal Homes	Feb-23	403.41	179	307.57	144.22	1			5.00	250	120.32	92.27	-23.05
	Sub Total (A)		629.72	191	405.15	153.82	2.51	11	197.09	63.4	395	284.27	138.3	-82.57
В.	Gr. Noida Projects													
1.	Centurial – Low Rise	Jul-22		0	35.45	0	0	0		36.88	60	79.76	33.29	-9.59
2.	Centurial – O2 Valley		II-22 184.46	223	47.78	77.76	0	0	294.35		60			
3.	Centurial-Tropical Gardens	Aug-23	172.00	401	146.97	128.70	0	0	-	0.00	110	50.00	44.09	-5.91
	Sub-Total (B)		356.46	624	230.2	206.46	0	0	294.35	36.88	230	129.76	77.38	-15.50
	Total (A+B)		986.18	815	635.35	360.28	2.51	11	491.44	100.28	625	414.03	215.68	-98.07

According to the second chart, six projects namely (i) Silicon City, (ii) Silicon City 2, (iii) Crystal Homes from NOIDA; and (iv) Centurion Park Low Rise, (v) Centurion Park O2 Valley and (vi) Tropical Gardens from Greater Noida could be considered as part of the funding arrangement with SBI CAPS. In terms of the first chart, "Sold Receivables" from said six projects are in the region of Rs.635 crores while "Unsold Receivables" would be to the tune of Rs.693 crores; the aggregate being Rs.1328 crores by way of inflow. If the costs estimated by NBCC towards completion of projects, the professional fees payable to NBCC, administration and marketing expenses and overheads, and cost of funding at the rate of 12% Internal Rate of Return are taken into account, the arrangement may still leave surplus of Rs.81 crores.

One of the matters that was debated was whether the project "Terrace Homes" should also be subject matter of this funding arrangement with SBI CAPS. However, as the charts indicate, if the project "Terrace Homes" is included, the entire funding project would result in deficit.

It was, therefore, agreed that as of now only six projects from the second chart be part of the funding arrangement with SBI CAPS and that the calculations adverted to in the charts be taken as the basis for the funding/financing arrangement.

Mr. Harish Salve, learned Senior Advocate appearing for SBI CAPS suggested that considering the magnitude of the projects, some

professional expertise would be required for administration and monitoring of the projects and that SBI CAPS had assumed the charges in that behalf to be Rs.80 crores. The learned Receiver as well as Mr. Siddhartha Dave, learned Senior Advocate appearing for NBCC however submitted that the arrangement with NBCC, a Public Sector Undertaking, contemplated various checks and balances at the end of NBCC and as such no separate entity for monitoring/administration of the projects would be required. At this stage, we accept the submissions made on behalf of NBCC and by the learned Receiver and do not deem it appropriate to engage the services of any outside agency to take care of administration/management of the projects.

Mr. Salve, learned Senior Advocate then suggested that instead of the fund flow being dependent on "project milestones" which are on the expenditure basis, the funds would be released by SBI CAPS on the basis of "collection milestones". The suggestion made by Mr. Salve is acceptable to the learned Receiver and to Mr. Pawan Aggrawal, the Forensic Auditor appointed by this Court. We, therefore, accept the suggestion made by Mr. Salve.

In his Note dated 24.08.2020 the learned Receiver had proposed:-

"i. The rate of interest as may be appropriate along with a direction to the Central Government, Ministry of Finance to issue necessary order to SBI CAP on the above regard.

- ii. NBCC will continue to execute the projects without there being any deviation from the current position as regards their payment requirements.
- iii. All costs of fund management and supervision etc by SBI CAP should be within their own budgets and shall not be an additional expenditure on the Amrapali projects.
- iv. The receivables from sold and unsold inventories in the six projects proposed by it being more than Rs 625 Crore+ Rs 180 Crore (interest component at 12%) shall be sufficient hypothecation to SBI CAP.
- v. The committee shall be at liberty sell or transfer or deal with the saleable FARs of the respective projects for generating additional resources to be pooled towards the funds of Amrapali projects."

The first suggestion need not detain us as the rate of interest is no longer a matter in issue.

Insofar as suggestion No.iv is concerned, Mr. Salve stated that apart from Unsold Inventories of the concerned six projects, the FAR from the project named "Terrace Homes" was also taken into account while arriving at the figure of "Unsold Receivables" to the tune of Rs.693 crores in the first Chart and therefore suggestion No.iv has to be read subject to the figures given in the first Chart. The learned Receiver fairly accepted that the figure of Rs.693 crores by way of "Unsold Receivables" in said Chart definitely included the FAR component in respect of the project "Terrace Homes". Subject to the aforementioned explanation the suggestions at sl. Nos. II to V given by the learned Receiver are therefore accepted.

As the broad parameters, on the basis of which the funding arrangement could be arrived at, have now been accepted, the legal mechanics regarding the form and format for the funding and its management are now left to SBI CAPS and the learned Receiver assisted by the Committee to determine and crystalize.

We hope that the formulation and finalisation of the form and format will be arrived at as early as possible and preferably within four weeks, whereafter the funding can be started by SBI CAPS.

We must place on record our sincere appreciation for the efforts undertaken by all the concerned including the learned Receiver and the Committee Members on one hand and the Officials of SBI CAPS on the other. A special mention must be made for the assistance and efforts put in by Ms Pratibha Jain of Nishit Desai and Associates.

Re: Other Matters

It appears that though directions were passed that a sum of Rs.10 lakhs be released to the learned Receiver, said amount has not yet been released. The Registry to do the needful at the earliest. The Registry is further directed that as and when any requisition is made by the learned Receiver for any administrative and other expenses, the Registry shall release the funds accordingly with due intimation to the Court.

In his Note dated 30.08.2020, the learned Receiver *inter alia* suggested:-

"II) DIRECTIONS TO RBI:

- 1. This Hon'ble Court has given the liberty to the Receiver to explore the possibility of a consortium of banks for the purpose of funding the projects, and with a view to augment the finance of the project. In view of responses from certain banks, the Receiver considers that this exercise will be facilitated and expedited if suitable directions are given to RBI.
- 2. Let RBI be directed to issue necessary instructions, grant concessions or relaxations as may be solicited for any bank, towards formation of consortium, for funding the Amrapali projects taking into account, the total security available with the projects.
- 3. Let this exercise, be directed to be completed, before Sept.2020 and a finalised funding plan be submitted to this Hon'ble Court. The RBI be directed to involve the Receiver and the Committee appointed by the Court in the above exercise.
- 4. A project profile in this regard will be submitted to all banks and to RBI and the CMD's of all banks can act in terms of the profiles to be shared."

The learned Receiver may hand over a copy of the Note to the learned Solicitor General of India who may take appropriate instructions in the matter so that this issue can be dealt with on the next occasion. In the meantime, the learned Receiver may also approach the Reserve Bank

of India which may consider the suggestions made by the learned receiver and revert back.

(JAYANT KUMAR ARORA) COURT MASTER (JAGDISH CHANDER)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR