BEFORE THE SECURITIES APPELLATE TRIBUNAL MUMBAI

Order Reserved on : 18.07.2022

Date of Decision : 20.07.2022

Misc. Application No. 4 of 2022 And Misc. Application No. 46 of 2022 And Appeal No. 672 of 2021

Joindre Commodities Ltd. 32, Raja Bahadur Mansion, Gr. Floor, Opp. Bank of Maharashtra, Mumbai Samachar Marg, Mumbai – 400 023.Appellant

Versus

Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI Bhavan, Plot No. C-4A, G-Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051.Respondent

Mr. Trushar Bhavsar, Advocate with Mr. A. P. Shukla, President of the Company for the Appellant.

Mr. Shyam Mehta, Senior Advocate with Mr. Mihir Mody and Mr. Mayur Jaisingh, Advocates i/b. K Ashar & Co. for the Respondent.

Mr. Melvyn Fernandes, Advocate with Ms. Supriya Majumdar and Mr. Saurabhsai Ganesan, Advocates i/b Vaish Associates Advocates for the Intervener.

WITH Misc. Application No. 50 of 2022 And Appeal No. 708 of 2021

Pragya Commodity Brokers Pvt. Ltd. 227/228, Kailas Plaza, 2nd Floor, V.B. Lane, Ghatkopar (E), Mumbai – 400 075.Appellant

Versus

Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI Bhavan, Plot No. C-4A, G-Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051. ...Respondent

Mr. Prakash Shah, Advocate with CA Kushal Shah i/b Prakash Shah & Associates for the Appellant.

Mr. Suraj Chaudhary, Advocate with Mihir Mody, Mr. Arnav Misra and Mr. Mayur Jaisingh, Advocates i/b. K Ashar & Co. for the Respondent.

WITH Misc. Application No. 88 of 2022 And Appeal No. 751 of 2021

Investsmart Commodities Limited 307-A, Shree Vardhan Complex, 4 RNT Marg, Indore

...Appellant

Versus

Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI Bhavan, Plot No. C-4A, G-Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051.

...Respondent

Mr. Kunal Kataria, Advocate with Ms. Aparna Wagle and Ms. Siddhi Somani, Advocates i/b. Alliance Law for the Appellant.

Mr. Suraj Chaudhary, Advocate with Mihir Mody, Mr. Arnav Misra and Mr. Mayur Jaisingh, Advocates i/b. K Ashar & Co. for the Respondent.

Mr. Melvyn Fernandes, Advocate with Ms. Supriya Majumdar and Mr. Saurabhsai Ganesan, Advocates i/b Vaish Associates Advocates for the Intervener.

WITH Misc. Application No. 89 of 2022 And Appeal No. 756 of 2021

Camco Commodities Pvt. Ltd. Sangam Ashram 10-A, Under Hill Lane, Civil Lines, Delhi – 110 054.

...Appellant

Versus

Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI Bhavan, Plot No. C-4A, G-Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051. ...Respondent

Mr. Prakash Shah, Advocate with CA Kushal Shah i/b Prakash Shah & Associates for the Appellant.

Mr. Suraj Chaudhary, Advocate with Mihir Mody, Mr. Arnav Misra and Mr. Mayur Jaisingh, Advocates i/b. K Ashar & Co. for the Respondent.

Mr. Melvyn Fernandes, Advocate with Ms. Supriya Majumdar and Mr. Saurabhsai Ganesan, Advocates i/b Vaish Associates Advocates for the Intervener.

WITH Appeal No. 18 of 2022

Ashika Commodities and Derivatives Pvt. Ltd. Trinity, 226/1, A.J.C. Bose Road, 7th Floor, Kolkata – 700 020.

...Appellant

Versus

Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI Bhavan, Plot No. C-4A, G-Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051. ...Respondent

Mr. Prakash Shah, Advocate with CA Kushal Shah i/b Prakash Shah & Associates for the Appellant.

Mr. Suraj Chaudhary, Advocate with Mihir Mody, Mr. Arnav Misra and Mr. Mayur Jaisingh, Advocates i/b. K Ashar & Co. for the Respondent.

WITH

Appeal No. 4 of 2022

Paterson Commodities Private Limited Bhavani Mansion, No. 3, 4th Lane, Nungambakkam High Road, Chennai – 600 034.Appellant

Versus

Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI Bhavan, Plot No. C-4A, G-Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051.Respondent

Mr. Prakash Shah, Advocate with CA Kushal Shah i/b Prakash Shah & Associates for the Appellant.

Mr. Suraj Chaudhary, Advocate with Mihir Mody, Mr. Arnav Misra and Mr. Mayur Jaisingh, Advocates i/b. K Ashar & Co. for the Respondent.

WITH Appeal No. 8 of 2022

Aasmaa Securities Pvt. Ltd. Merged with Aasmaa Commodities Pvt. Ltd. 6-3-906/B, 2nd Floor, Somajiguda, Hyderabad – 500 082.

...Appellant

Versus

Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI Bhavan, Plot No. C-4A, G-Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051.Respondent

Mr. Prakash Shah, Advocate with CA Kushal Shah i/b Prakash Shah & Associates for the Appellant.

Mr. Suraj Chaudhary, Advocate with Mihir Mody, Mr. Arnav Misra and Mr. Mayur Jaisingh, Advocates i/b. K Ashar & Co. for the Respondent.

WITH Misc. Application No. 255 of 2022 And Misc. Application No. 256 of 2022 And Misc. Application No. 446 of 2022 And Appeal No. 169 of 2022

K R Choksey Commodity Brokers Pvt. Ltd.	
5 th Floor, Abhishek Building,	
Beside Monginis Cake Factory,	
Off New Link Road, Andheri (West),	
Mumbai – 400 053.	Appellant

Versus

Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI Bhavan, Plot No. C-4A, G-Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051. ...Respondent Mr. Prakash Shah, Advocate with CA Kushal Shah i/b Prakash Shah & Associates for the Appellant.

Mr. Suraj Surjit Chaudhary, Advocate with Mr. Abhishek Khare and Mr. Sharvil Kala, Advocates i/b Khare Legal Chambers for the Respondent SEBI.

WITH Misc. Application No. 501 of 2022 And Misc. Application No. 662 of 2022 And Appeal No. 382 of 2022

National Spot Exchange Limited Malkani Chambers, 1st Floor, Off. Nehru Road, Near Hotel Orchid, Vile Parle, Mumbai – 400 099.Appellant

Versus

- Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI Bhavan, Plot No. C-4A, G-Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051.
- Investsmart Commodities Limited 307-A, Shree Vardhan Complex, 4 RNT Marg, Indore – 452 001.
 ...Respondents

Mr. Melvyn Fernandes, Advocate with Ms. Supriya Majumdar and Mr. Saurabhsai Ganesan, Advocates i/b Vaish Associates Advocates for the Appellant.

Mr. Mihir Mody, Advocate with Mr. Arnav Misra and Mr. Mayur Jaisingh, Advocates i/b. K Ashar & Co. for Respondent No. 1.

WITH Misc. Application No. 502 of 2022 And Misc. Application No. 663 of 2022 And Appeal No. 383 of 2022

National Spot Exchange Limited Malkani Chambers, 1st Floor, Off. Nehru Road, Near Hotel Orchid, Vile Parle, Mumbai – 400 099.Appellant

Versus

- Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI Bhavan, Plot No. C-4A, G-Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051.
- Joindre Commodities Limited 29-32, 3rd Floor, 9/15, Bansilal Building, Homi Modi Street, Fort, Mumbai – 400 023.

...Respondents

Mr. Melvyn Fernandes, Advocate with Ms. Supriya Majumdar and Mr. Saurabhsai Ganesan, Advocates i/b Vaish Associates Advocates for the Appellant.

Mr. Suraj Chaudhary, Advocate with Mr. Mihir Mody and Mr. Mayur Jaisingh, Advocates i/b. K Ashar & Co. for Respondent No. 1.

Mr. Trushar Bhavsar, Advocate with Mr. A. P. Shukla, President of the Company for Respondent No. 2.

WITH Misc. Application No. 503 of 2022 And Misc. Application No. 664 of 2022 And Appeal No. 384 of 2022 National Spot Exchange Limited Malkani Chambers, 1st Floor, Off. Nehru Road, Near Hotel Orchid, Vile Parle, Mumbai – 400 099.

...Appellant

Versus

- Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI Bhavan, Plot No. C-4A, G-Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051.
- 2. Camco Commodities Private Limited 10-A, Underhill Lane, Civil Lines, Delhi – 110 054.
 ...Respondents

Mr. Melvyn Fernandes, Advocate with Ms. Supriya Majumdar and Mr. Saurabhsai Ganesan, Advocates i/b Vaish Associates Advocates for the Appellant.

Mr. Mihir Mody, Advocate with Mr. Arnav Misra and Mr. Mayur Jaisingh, Advocates i/b. K Ashar & Co. for Respondent No. 1.

WITH Misc. Application No. 504 of 2022 And Misc. Application No. 665 of 2022 And Appeal No. 385 of 2022

National Spot Exchange Limited Malkani Chambers, 1st Floor, Off. Nehru Road, Near Hotel Orchid, Vile Parle, Mumbai – 400 099.

...Appellant

Versus

- Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI Bhavan, Plot No. C-4A, G-Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051.
- Ashika Commodities and Derivatives Pvt. Ltd. Trinity, 226/1, A.J.C. Bose Road, 7th Floor, Kolkata – 700 020.
 ...Respondents

Mr. Melvyn Fernandes, Advocate with Ms. Supriya Majumdar and Mr. Saurabhsai Ganesan, Advocates i/b Vaish Associates Advocates for the Appellant.

Mr. Mihir Mody, Advocate with Mr. Arnav Misra and Mr. Mayur Jaisingh, Advocates i/b. K Ashar & Co. for Respondent No. 1.

AND Misc. Application No. 505 of 2022 And Misc. Application No. 666 of 2022 And Appeal No. 386 of 2022

National Spot Exchange Limited Malkani Chambers, 1st Floor, Off. Nehru Road, Near Hotel Orchid, Vile Parle, Mumbai – 400 099.Appellant

Versus

- Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI Bhavan, Plot No. C-4A, G-Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051.
- M/s Aasmaa Commodities Pvt. Ltd. Flat#401/A&B, 4th Floor, Astral Heights Complex, Municipal No. 6-3-352/2&3, Road No. 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Tellangana – 500 034.

Mr. Melvyn Fernandes, Advocate with Ms. Supriya Majumdar and Mr. Saurabhsai Ganesan, Advocates i/b Vaish Associates Advocates for the Appellant.

Mr. Mihir Mody, Advocate with Mr. Arnav Misra and Mr. Mayur Jaisingh, Advocates i/b. K Ashar & Co. for Respondent No. 1.

CORAM : Justice Tarun Agarwala, Presiding Officer Justice M.T. Joshi, Judicial Member Ms. Meera Swarup, Technical Member

Per : Justice Tarun Agarwala, Presiding Officer

1. Even though different orders have been passed by the Whole Time Member ('WTM' for short) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India ('SEBI' for short) against the commodity brokers, the facts and issue raised is common and, therefore, all the appeals are being decided together.

2. Eight appeals have been filed by eight different brokers whereby their applications for registration as a commodity broker under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Intermediaries) regulations, 2008 ('Intermediaries Regulations' for short) has been rejected on the ground that the appellant is not a 'fit and proper person' to hold a registration certificate. Even though National Spot Exchange Limited ('NSEL' for short) is not a party in these proceedings, nonetheless, five appeals have been filed against five orders praying that the *ex parte* observation / findings made against the NSEL in the impugned orders should be expunged. NSEL has also filed intervention applications in the appeals filed by the commodity brokers praying for the same reliefs.

3. We have heard Mr. Trushar Bhavsar, Mr. Prakash Shah, Mr. Kunal Katariya and Mr. Melvyn Fernandes, the learned counsel for the appellant in respective appeals and Mr. Shyam Mehta, the learned senior counsel, Mr. Suraj Chaudhary, Mr. Mihir Mody, Mr. Arnav Misra and Mr. Mayur Jaisingh, the learned counsel for the respondent.

4. Upon hearing the learned counsel for the parties, we find that the controversy involved in the present appeals is squarely covered by a decision of this Tribunal dated June 9, 2022 passed in *Geofin Comtrade Ltd. vs Securities and Exchange Board of India, Appeal no. 214 of 2019* and other connected companion appeals.

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5. Thus, for the reasons stated in our order dated June 9, 2022 in Appeal no. 214 of 2022 and other connected companion appeals, the impugned orders passed by the WTM against the brokers / appellants in the present appeals cannot be sustained and are quashed. The appeals of the brokers are allowed. The matters are remitted to the WTM to decide the matter afresh in the light of the observation made in our order dated June 9, 2022 in accordance with law after giving an opportunity of hearing to the brokers. All issues raised by the brokers will remain open for them to be raised before the WTM. The appeals of NSEL are also allowed. The adverse observations / findings against NSEL in the impugned orders are expunged and will not be utilized against NSEL in any court of law of before any authority. All the miscellaneous applications are accordingly disposed of.

6. In the circumstances of the case, parties shall bear their own costs.

7. This order will be digitally signed by the Private Secretary on behalf of the bench and all concerned parties are directed to act on the digitally signed copy of this order. Certified copy of this order is also available from the Registry on payment of usual charges.

Justice Tarun Agarwala Presiding Officer

Justice M.T. Joshi Judicial Member

Ms. Meera Swarup Technical Member

20.07.2022 msb