

IN THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
ALLAHABAD BENCH

Company Petition (IB)No: 90/ALD/2019

(Under Section 9 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 read with Rule 6 of I & B of the
Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rule, 2016)

IN THE MATTER OF

M/S BAFF ENGINEERS PRIVATE LIMITED

..... Applicant/Operational Creditor

VERSUS

M/S PRATISHTHA DAIRY FARMS PRIVATE LIMITED

..... Respondent/Corporate Debtor

ORDER DELIVERED ON: 11.08.2021

CORAM:

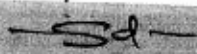
Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Retd.) Rajesh Dayal Khare, Member, Judicial

For the Applicant/ Operational Creditor: Ms. Ishita Sharma, Advocate
For the Respondent/ Corporate Debtor:

Per se: Mr. Justice (Retd.) Rajesh Dayal Khare, Member (Judicial)

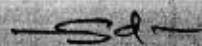
Order

1. The present petition is filed under Section 9 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 read with Rule 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rule, 2016 by the Applicant/ operational creditor, i.e. "M/S Baff Engineering Private Limited" for initiation of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process against the Respondent/ Corporate Debtor Company "M/S Pratishtha Dairy Farms Pvt Ltd Limited".
2. As per averments made in the petition, a meeting was held between the Corporate Debtor and the Operational Creditor regarding purchase of various equipment with technical specification and Commissioning for the Milk Processing Plant at Village Dilra Raipur, PO- AkkaDilari, Rampur Road, District Moradabad, UP. Thereafter, the Corporate Debtor issued a purchase order (Ref- PDF/2015/BEPL/103) (dated 03.08.2015) and the same was duly accepted by the



operational Creditor. *(The copy of purchase order issued by the Corporate Debtor is annexed as Annexure A-3 in the said petition).*

3. It is stated that in pursuance of the agreement, the Operational Creditor issued 17 RA bills which were duly certified by the Corporate Debtor for a total amount of Rs. 1,21,31,097/- and the Corporate Debtor made a payment of Rs.1,04,73,400/- vide various cheques and direct payments to the Operational Creditor and sum of Rs.16,57,697/- remained pending and is due to be paid by the Corporate Debtor.
4. It is further stated that the debt fell due when each of the bills was raised by the Operational Creditor and the same was duly accepted and acknowledged by the Corporate Debtor, but the corporate debtor failed to clear the outstanding amount despite various reminders and letters issued by the operational creditor.
5. Further the operational creditor issued demand notice Under Section 8 of the IBC,2016 dated 27.10.2018 demanding a total sum of Rs. 16,57,697/-; which was duly received by the respondent *(The Copy of demand notice along with the delivery report is annexed as Annexure A-9 of the application)* and despite demand notice being delivered to the Corporate debtor, neither any reply nor any payment of the due amount has been made till the date of application. The respondent has therefore filed this petition as an operational creditor praying for initiation of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process of the Corporate Debtor for its inability to liquidate the claim.
6. The corporate Debtor has been duly served the notice by speed post for which the tracking report is on record. Pursuant to the court notice issued to the Corporate Debtor, Sh. Shivam Pandey alongwith Sh. Pratik Chandra, Advocates appeared on behalf of corporate debtor and seek time to file reply but thereafter, none has put



in appearance nor any reply has been filed on behalf of the corporate debtor hence vide order dated 20.08.2019, the case was fixed for ex parte hearing and thereafter on 04.08.2021, the matter was heard but on date of hearing also the respondent opted not to appear.

7. I have heard the arguments raised by the Ld. Counsel for the Operational Creditor/Petitioner and perused the application and the documents annexed there in.

Sec 9: Application for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process by operational creditor"

(5) The Adjudicating Authority shall, within fourteen days of the receipt of the application under sub-section (2), by an order

(i) admit the application and communicate such decision to the operational creditor and the corporate debtor if, --

(a) the application made under sub-section (2) is complete;

(b) there is no ³ [payment] of the unpaid operational debt;

(c) the invoice or notice for payment to the corporate debtor has been delivered by the operational creditor;

(d) no notice of dispute has been received by the operational creditor or there is no record of dispute in the information utility; and

(e) there is no disciplinary proceeding pending against any resolution professional proposed under sub-section (4), if any;

(ii) reject the application and communicate such decision to the operational creditor and the corporate debtor, if--

(a) the application made under sub-section (2) is incomplete;

(b) there has been ³[payment] of the unpaid operational debt;

(c) the creditor has not delivered the invoice or notice for payment to the corporate debtor;

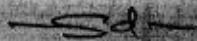
(d) notice of dispute has been received by the operational creditor or there is a record of dispute in the information utility; or

(e) any disciplinary proceeding is pending against any proposed resolution professional:

—Sd—

Provided that Adjudicating Authority, shall before rejecting an application under sub-clause (a) of clause (ii) give a notice to the applicant to rectify the defect in his application within seven days of the date of receipt of such notice from the Adjudicating Authority.

8. Mere plain reading of the provision shows that when demand notice Under Section 8 of the IB Code is delivered for initiation of proceeding Under Section 9 of the IB Code and if no dispute has been raised by the Corporate Debtor in pursuance of the demand notice issued by the Operational Creditor then requirement is to be considered before triggering the insolvency process.
9. Therefore, in light of the aforesaid provisions, I would like to consider the present application and this Adjudicating Authority is of the considered view that the total amount claimed in default is of Rs. 16,57,697/- which is more than Rs One Lakh to trigger the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process against the Corporate Debtor. The increase in threshold limit to initiate CIRP from Rs. 1 lakh to 1 Crore vide notification of the MCA dated March 24, 2020 does not in any way apply to the present matter as the application was pending adjudication much before the notification came into force.
10. Further, it is matter of record that applicant filed a copy of invoices for the period from 16.10.2015 till 25.07.2016 along with the present petition and the present petition is filed under section 9 of IB code on 08.03.2019. A perusal of the same goes to show that invoices of this period are found well within the limitation (*As per section 238 A of IB Code*) to triggered the CIRP in respect of corporate debtor.
11. Therefore, the Petitioner succeeded in proving its debt and the Corporate Debtor failed to discharge its payment liability towards supply of goods to corporate debtor as per its purchase order. The Corporate Debtor has not paid the outstanding



debt owed to operational creditor despite demand notice delivered upon him under Sec 8 of the Code and has neither adhere to the settlement arrived between the parties. Therefore, the amount and default on the side of the Operational Creditor stand proved in the present case. Therefore, petitioner is found entitled to initiate corporate insolvency resolution process as against the Corporate Debtor.

12. Thus the Petitioner, in the present IB petition, has complied with Section 9 (3)(b) and 9(3) (c) by filing supporting affidavit. As the petitioner fulfils the requirement for invoking CIRP in terms of Section 9 of the Code, the present application is found complete and the default of debts is established. Hence, the present petition deserves admission.

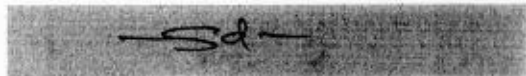
13. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, this Adjudicating Authority is inclined to admit this petition and initiate CIRP of the Respondent Company. Accordingly, this petition is admitted. A moratorium in terms of Section 14 of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 shall come into effect forthwith stating:

(1) Subject to provisions of sub-sections (2) and (3), on the insolvency commencement date, the Adjudicating Authority shall by order declare moratorium for prohibiting all of the following, namely:

(a) the institution of suits or continuation of pending suits or proceedings against the corporate debtor including execution of any judgement, decree or order in any court of law, tribunal, arbitration panel or other authority;

(b) transferring, encumbering, alienating or disposing off by the corporate debtor any of its assets or any legal right or beneficial interest therein.

(c) any action to foreclose, recover or enforce any security interest created by the corporate debtor in respect of its property including any action under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002);



(d) the recovery of any property by an owner or lessor where such property is occupied by or in the possession of the corporate debtor.

Explanation.-For the purposes of this sub-section, it is hereby clarified that notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, a licence, permit, registration, quota, concession, clearance or a similar grant or right given by the Central Government, State Government, local authority, sectoral regulator or any other authority constituted under any other law for the time being in force, shall not be suspended or terminated on the grounds of insolvency, subject to the condition that there is no default in payment of current dues arising for the use or continuation of the license or a similar grant or right during moratorium period.]

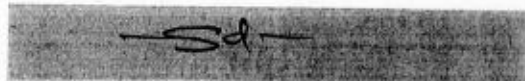
2) The supply of essential goods or services to the corporate debtor as may be specified shall not be terminated or suspended or interrupted during moratorium period.

(2A) Where the interim resolution professional or resolution professional, as the case may be, considers the supply of goods or services critical to protect and preserve the value of the corporate debtor and manage the operations of such corporate debtor as a going concern, then the supply of such goods or services shall not be terminated, suspended or interrupted during the period of moratorium, except where such corporate debtor has not paid dues arising from such supply during the moratorium period or in such circumstances as may be specified.]

(3) The provisions of sub-section (1) shall not apply to —

(a) such transactions, agreements or other arrangement as may be notified by the Central Government in consultation with any financial sector regulator or any other authority;

(b) a surety in a contract of guarantee to a corporate debtor.



(4) The order of moratorium shall have effect from the date of such order till the completion of the corporate insolvency resolution process:

Provided that where at any time during the corporate insolvency resolution process period, if the Adjudicating Authority approves the resolution plan under sub-section (1) of section 31 or passes an order for liquidation of corporate debtor under section 33, the moratorium shall cease to have effect from the date of such approval or liquidation order, as the case may be.

14. Since in the present matter the applicant did not propose the name of the IRP. Hence, this Adjudicating Authority hereby appoint **Mr. Ankit Agarwal IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N01070/2020-2021/13514 Email Id: ankitagarwalcs@gmail.com** as Interim resolution Professional.
15. The registry is directed to communicate this order to Operational Creditor, as well as to Corporate Debtor and to IRP.
16. Urgent Photostat certified copies of this order, if applied for, be supplied to parties upon compliance of requisite formalities.
17. List on 13.09.2021 for filing of the Progress Report before this Bench.



JUSTICE RAJESH DAYAL KHARE
MEMBER (J)

Date: 11.08.2021

Swati Gupta
(LRA)