

P.W. No. 1 on S.A. :

Name : Ronald Chalres Ward
Age : 94 years.
Occupation : Business.
Residing at : 2, Broom House, Dock Carnwath Road,
London, United Kingdom.

Examination-in-chief by Ld. A.P.P. Smt. P. S. Patil for the State :-

1. I know Amar Agarwal, Uma Agarwal and Kamal Pandey. I did my schooling till the age of 16 and thereafter I have not continued with it. I have the business newspapers and magazine as compositor. I have a business in the name of Comedy Store Ltd. I started this business in May 1979 in London. I am the proprietor and producer of Comedy Store Ltd. I am having 100% ownership in this business.

2. Amar Agrawal approached me in year 2007. The nature of my business is comedy and different kinds of comedy. The business mainly provides a platform to the budding comedians and stand up performers. My business has been highly successful since beginning. There are many other persons, who have copied my business idea. Amar Agarwal had approached me with an intention to take this idea to India. He informed me that he already have successful franchises of several premium brands in Mumbai. He was really persuasive and charismatic about his business in Mumbai. I found it necessary to look into the idea of doing the business in India. He further invited me to Mumbai to take the idea further.

3. I arrived in Mumbai. I found that there was so much potential in the said proposal in view of the huge population of

Mumbai. I found the said proposal had potential and it was excellent. Mr. Agarwal had all the licenses of other brands. I went back to London and wanted to see whether such business can be opened in Mumbai. Thereafter we have meetings in London, wherein he showed me figures of the proposed business. I found it worthwhile to take such business in Mumbai as it had great potential to expand it beyond Mumbai to several other cities in India.

4. We reached an agreement wherein Amar Agarwal was to look after the business and I had to look after the shows. As I am resident of London, I was to give the details of the auditorium, shows, sound systems and other required things. The business was to have 50% my share and 50% that of Mr. Amar Agarwal. Thereafter, we entered into Shareholder's Agreement. Now, I am shown the xerox copy of Shareholder's Agreement at Page No.660 to 696. It is the same agreement. It bears my signature as well as that of Amar Agarwal and Uma Agarwal. The signatures are there on each page of the document. They have signed on this document in my presence. (The Ld. APP requested to give the exhibit by relying upon the order of Hon'ble Bombay High Court dated 25.02.2013. Ld. Advocate for the accused strongly objected the exhibiting of the document stating that it is merely a xerox copy and original has not been filed. Having considered the contents of the said order and the submissions of the parties, this document is given **Exh.33** by way of identification and by keeping objection in relation to admissibility.).

5. Mr. Amar Agarwal was anxious about I sending the money as

per the said agreement and I was fine with it as it was equally applicable to him for the investment amount. I got busy in London to arrange for international and British comedians for the shows to be conducted in Mumbai. I was also busy in another show in London. While Mr. Amar Agarwal was busy in arranging the venue for the proposed comedy show in Mumbai. The venue for the comedy shows were Phoenix Palladium Mall in Mumbai.

6. I came back to Mumbai and I had discussion about the proposed shows, the auditorium and the first tranche from my side. I released the money towards the first tranche for the business and it was also expected that Mr. Amar Agarwal would do the same. Thereafter, I returned back to London. As per the agreement, I was expected to invest 2 million pounds, while Mr. Amar Agarwal was also to invest similar amount of 2 million pounds. The name of the business in India was Horseshoe. I am not able to give the full name of the Indian business.

(Further examination-in-chief is deferred till next date).

R. O. & A. C.

Sd/-

(Abhijit R. Solapure)
Addl. C. J. M., 47th Court,
Esplanade, Mumbai.

Date : 07.04.2026

Mbc/-