

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION
COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION APPLICATION NO. 209 OF 2026**

Ram Sinh Jadeja

....Applicant.

V/s

Union of India and Others

.... Respondents.

Mr. Pranav Nair with Mr. Anjaykumar R. Kori, Advocates for the Applicant.

Mr. R. P. Ojha, Advocate for the Respondents.

CORAM : GAUTAM A. ANKHAD, J.

DATE : 5TH MAY 2026

P.C. :

1. The arbitration agreement is at Clause 70 of the General Conditions of Contract which forms part of the Contract Agreement No.CENM-03 of 2020-2021. The Applicant is seeking appointment of sole arbitrator under the contract in relation to disputes that have arisen on account of non-payment of dues and other alleged breaches committed by the Respondents. Mr. Pranav Nair, learned Counsel for the Applicant submits that on 17th September 2025 the Applicant called upon the Respondents to escalate the matter to higher authorities and to proceed for appointment of arbitrator/conciliator in terms of the agreement. The notice was to be treated as formal notice of invocation of arbitration clause in terms of condition nos. 70 and 71 of the General Conditions of Contract.

2. Mr. P. P. Ojha, learned Counsel for the Respondents disputes the

reference to the Dispute Resolution Board (“DRB”) and seeks four weeks’ time to file reply in the matter.

3. List the matter on 17th June 2026. The reply, if any, shall be filed on or before 12th June 2026.

4. In the meantime, the Applicant is at liberty to pursue the matter before the Conciliator/Dispute Resolution Board. In the event the DRB is not constituted, it is clarified that the Respondents shall not be entitled to take this objection on the next date of hearing and that the arbitrator shall be appointed in the matter.

[GAUTAM A. ANKHAD, J.]

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