

ITEM NO.1

COURT NO.4

SECTION XVIA

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

I.A. NOS.28, 36, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 & 47-49 and IA No. 50 in IA No. 33 IN TRANSFER CASE
(CIVIL.) NO. 2 OF 2004

THE SECURITIES & EXCHANGE BD. OF INDIA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE GOLDEN FORESTS (I) LTD.

Respondent(s)

(For directions, intervention, stay, clarification and/or modification of the
order dated 19.8.2004,
impleadment, modification of Court's order dated 17.8.2004, filing of summar
y of records and office
report)

[For urgent direction]

WITH I.A. Nos.5, 6, 7-11, 13, 14-15, 16-18, 19-22 and 23-24
in T.C.(C) NO.68/2003

(For directions by the Committee appointed by this Hon'ble Court, directions, impleadment, exe
mption
from filing O.T. and impleading party and office report)

With

IA No. 4 in WP(C) No. 188/2004 (for urgent directions and office report)

Date: 05/09/2006 This Matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ASHOK BHAN

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MARKANDEY KATJU

For Petitioner(s)

Mr. Altaf Ahmed, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Bhargava V. Desai, Adv.

Mr. Rahul Gupta, Adv.

Ms. Varuna Bhandari Gugnani, Adv.

Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Goyal ,Adv

In IA 23

Mr. Harpal Singh, in person.

For the Committee

Ms. Suruchii Aggarwal ,Adv

Mr. Prashant Chouhan, Adv.

For Respondent(s)

Mr. S.K. Passi, adv.

Ms. Naresh Bakshi,Adv.

For Drive-in Tourist

Resorts Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Alok Gupta ,Adv

Mr. Ranjan Mukherjee ,Adv

Mr. N.R. Choudhury, Adv.

Mr. Somnath Mukherjee, Adv.

Ms. Kiran Suri ,Adv

Ms. Minakshi Vij ,Adv

2

Mr. Ugra Shankar Prasad ,Adv

Mr. Abhijit Sengupta ,Adv

Mr. K.C. Dua ,Adv

Mr. Subramonium Prasad ,Adv

Mr. G. Ramakrishna Prasad ,Adv

Mr.Khwairakpam Nobin Singh ,Adv

For intervenor(s)

Mr. M.C. Dhingra ,Adv

Mrs. V.D. Khanna, Adv. for

M/S I.M. Nanavati Associates ,Adv

Mr. Aditya Sharma, Adv.

Mr. K.S. Rana ,Adv

Ms. Chitra Markandaya ,Adv

Mr. B. Sridhar, Adv.

M/S. K.Ramkumar & Associates ,Adv

Mr. Makarand D.Adkar, Adv.

Mr. Vijay Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Vishwajit Singh ,Adv

Mr. Bimal Chakraborty, Adv.

Mr. B.K. Pal, Adv.

Ms. Sunita Sharma, Adv.

Mr. S.K. Sabharwal, Adv.

State of Punjab

Mr. R.K.Rathore, AAG PB

Mr. Arun K. Sinha, Adv.

State of Uttaranchal

Mr. Avatar Singh Rawat, AAG

Mr. Jatinder Kumar Bhatia, Adv.

For Golden Forest

Mr. R.K. Jain, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh, Adv.

Mr. S.B. Meitei, Adv.

Mr. Deepak Jain, Adv.

Mr. Arjun Singh, Adv.

Mr. Naresh Kumar Adv.

Mr. Surender Sharma, Adv.

Mr. S.N. Pandey, Adv.

For M.A. Shah

Mr. D.K. Garg, Adv.

For State of W.B.

Mr. T.C. Sharma, Ms. Neelam Sharma, Adv.

UPON hearing counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. On our direction the counsel appearing for the Securities & Exchange

3

Board of India [SEBI] has filed the Note dated 4th of September, 2006 containing the factual history of the case along with the directions sought for by the Committee. There is no dispute on the facts stated to us by the SEBI in the aforesaid Note submitted by the SEBI, which are as follows:

2. M/s. Golden Forest (India) Limited, Chandigarh [for short "GFIL"], the respondent herein, was incorporated on 23rd February, 1987 and was granted certificate of commencement of business on 6th March, 1987. The main objects of the GFIL were, inter alia, development of agricultural land, social forestry farms, etc. From the commencement of the business, the GFIL had come out with several schemes for raising funds from the investors. The GFIL had mobilized approximately Rs. 16 lakhs in 1987, Rs. 3 crores by 1990 and by the year 1997 it had mobilized about Rs.311 crores. It had also acquired about 7750 acres of land. It had mobilised an amount of Rs.1037 crores as on 31st December, 1997 on a capital base of Rs.10 lakhs only.

3. On the basis of investors' complaint, the Department of Company Affairs had found the GFIL violating various provisions of The Companies Act as well as accounting and auditing procedures.

4. On 26th November, 1997 by a press release as also public notice dated 18th December, 1997, SEBI had called upon the existing "Collective Investment Schemes" to submit information to SEBI and further informed that the Regulations are under preparation and till that time no further schemes are to be sponsored.

5. Thereafter SEBI conducted survey on various collective investment schemes floated by different persons including the respondents. On the basis of the survey reports, SEBI issued order dated 9th January, 1998 to the GFIL under Section 11B read with Section 11 of The Securities & Exchange Board of India Act [for short "the SEBI Act"] directing it not to mobilise any further funds from the investors and restrained it from selling, assigning or alienating any of the assets out of the corpus of the scheme. The GFIL however questioned the power

4

of the SEBI to issue such directions.

6. Having received further complaints of misappropriation of funds and transfer of funds by GFIL, SEBI requested the Government to take action against the company-GFIL.

7. Due to non compliance of the aforesaid order dated 9th January, 1998 and to protect the interest of investors, SEBI filed a Writ Petition in public interest (PIL) being Writ Petition No. 344 of 1998 before the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, seeking certain restraint orders against the GFIL and its promoters/directors. SEBI, being the statutory administrative body to monitor the stock market, filed the aforesaid Writ Petition - WP No. 344/98 to protect the interest of various investors in GFIL since the GFIL failed and neglected to get itself registered under the SEBI (Collective Investment Scheme) Regulations, 1999 and to subject itself to regulating mechanism of SEBI under the powers conferred upon it under the SEBI Act.

8. The following directions were sought in the aforesaid writ petition before the High Court of Bombay:

"a) that this Hon'ble Court issue a writ of Mandamus or a writ in the nature of mandamus or any other writ, direction or order under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, directing Respondent No.2 to issue orders against all the Commercial Banks and/or Cooperative

banks where Respondent No.1 has an account directing the Commercial Banks and/or the Cooperative Banks to restrain Respondent No.1 from withdrawing any funds from any of its accounts with the said commercial banks and/or Cooperative banks and /or any of their respective branches whether in India or abroad.

b) that pending the hearing and final disposal of this Petition this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to appoint any fit or proper person as a Special Officer or may appoint any agency as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit to operate the Bank accounts of Respondent No.1 to pay off those investors whose investments have matured or are likely to mature shortly;

c) that pending the hearing and final disposal of this Petition the Special Officer or agency as the case may be directed by an order of this Hon'ble Court to act in accordance with the directions given from time to time by this Hon'ble Court if this Hon'ble Court deems

5

fit and proper;

d) that pending the hearing and final disposal of this Petition, Respondent No.2 be ordered and directed to issue orders against all the Commercial Banks and or Cooperative Banks where Respondent No.1 has an account directing the Commercial Banks and/or the Cooperative Banks to restrain Respondent No.1 from withdrawing any funds from any of its accounts with the said Commercial Banks and/or Cooperative banks and/or any of their respective branches whether in India or abroad;

e) that pending the hearing and final disposal of this Petition, Respondent No.1 by itself or by its servants and agents be restrained by an order of this Hon'ble Court from receiving any monies from any investor under a new scheme or existing schemes, from operating any of its Bank accounts by withdrawing any monies from any of its bank accounts or from transferring, selling, assigning or alienating in any way the assets created out of the corpus of the Schemes of Respondent No.1 or from in any manner dealing with or disposing off any of its assets whether moveable or immovable tangible or intangible without the prior written permission of the Petitioner.

f) that pending the hearing and final disposal of this Petition this Hon'ble Court be pleased to direct Respondent No.1 to render its full and complete accounts in respect of the funds mobilized by Respondent No.1 under all its schemes, payments, if any, made to its investors, source of such payment and details of monies to be immediately repaid to the investors under all its schemes, and to hand over true copies of all books of accounts, bank statements and all banking documents, papers, vouchers, records, registers and all other documents containing details of the land, documents supporting the purchase or lease of various land including lien agreements entered into with the various unit holders from inception till date, in its custody possession and power to the Special Officer or Agency as the case may be.

g) for interim and ad interim reliefs in terms of prayer (b) to (f) above;

h) for costs of this Petition; and

i) for such further and other reliefs as the nature and circumstances of the case may require or as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper:"

9. The High Court of Bombay passed various orders from time to time protecting the investors' interest by way of injunction, restraint orders and also directed the SEBI and Reserve Bank of India [RBI] to constitute a Committee for

6

taking stock of the situation. The Committee was constituted and report was submitted which affirmed various violations and manipulations and non-genuineness of the schemes of the GFIL. On an order passed by the Bombay High Court, Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd. [CRISIL] gave a high risk rating to the GFIL as Grade-V.

10. GFIL through the constituted attorney filed an affidavit dated 14th July, 1998 and informed that the GFIL and its subsidiaries had total assets worth Rs.1395.41 crores as on 31st March, 1998; that its investment mobilised and outstanding are at Rs.735 crores as on 7th of March, 1998 and; that they were confident of meeting all the liabilities and have also formulated a scheme of premature repayment.

11. The High Court of Bombay by its order dated 23rd of November, 1998, approved the scheme of premature repayment as proposed by the GFIL, with interim directions. The said order is extracted in extenso:

" Heard the learned counsel for the parties.

2. It has been pointed out by the learned Counsel for the company that the company is at present holding land worth about Rs.1,350 crores and is in a position to repay the amount of all the investors.

3. He, therefore, states that the company and its Directors shall give an undertaking to this Court on or before 30th November 1998 to the effect that the company is prepared to refund the amounts of the shareholders as well as

the investors if they so demand and the demand application is received by the company and/or its Directors on or before 31st January 1999. He further states that public advertisements would be issued in leading newspapers all over the country on or before 15th December, 1998 for the said purpose. He further submits that genuineness of the demands/applications would be processed by the company or its Directors on or before 31st March 1999. Wherever the applications are found to be of genuine shareholder or investor, the amount invested by them would be refunded on or before 31st December 1999 with interest thereon @ 10% per annum.

4. In view of the aforesaid statements, the company and its Directors are directed to file necessary undertaking on or

7

before 30th November 1998. It would be open to the respondent-company to apply to concerned authorities as also to this Court, after 31st March 1999, for sale of some part of the land for realizing the amount and paying it over to the investors who have demanded refund of amount/and or deposits.

5. The respondent-company and its subsidiaries as well as the Directors are directed not to dispose of any property of the respondent-company or its subsidiaries or its Directors till further orders.

6. Stand over to 1st April 1999.

7. Issuance of certified copy of this order is expedited."

[Emphasis supplied]

12. The GFIL assured the High Court that it was complying with the

scheme of repayment as approved by the High Court and prayed for removal of

restraint orders so as to withdraw the funds and make repayment. The High

Court permitted the GFIL to negotiate sale of assets with a view to generate

liquidity to pay off the liabilities but not to create any interest in the assets in

favour of the proposed purchasers and should not enter into any agreement. The

GFIL initially sought permission of the High Court of Bombay to sell off 19

properties but could not sell or negotiate and moved the High Court. Thereupon,

the High Court Bombay appointed Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.L. Pendse (retired

Chief Justice) as private receiver vide its order dated 16th February, 2000 to sell

the 19 properties as given in Annexure to the affidavit filed by GFIL.

13. After the appointment of Justice Pendse as private receiver for disposing of 19 properties of the GFIL to repay to the investors, a number of writ petitions came to be filed in various High Courts along with applications for restraint against the sale of properties and other similar relief so as to frustrate the working of the private receiver appointed by the High Court of Bombay.

14. The SEBI, apprehending that the various writ petitions filed in the various High Courts may result in passing of conflicting orders, thus frustrating the payment to the investors, filed a petition in this Court, seeking transfer of

8

Writ Petition No. 344/98 from the High Court of Bombay to its own board and stay of the proceedings in other High Courts in relation to the writ petitions. This Court vide its order dated 12th September, 2003, while allowing the transfer petition, transferred to this Court:

- (i) W.P. No. 344/1998;
- (ii) all proceedings referred to in Annexure P-3 to the Transfer Petition;
- (iii) all winding up Petitions (other than listed in Annexure P-3), if pending in any High Court; and directed
- (iv) that no other Court except this Court to entertain any winding up proceedings relating to the GFIL; and
- (v) the order to be communicated to all Courts.

15. The writ petition so transferred (being WP No. 344/98) from the High Court of Bombay was renumbered as Transferred Case No. No.2/2004.

16. In the High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh a winding up petition being Company Petition No.60/2001 was filed in which Mr. Justice R.N.

Agarwal (retired Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi, now heading the Committee appointed by this Court) was appointed as the provisional official liquidator. The said Company Petition was also transferred to this Court and numbered as T.C. No. 68/2003. Similarly, other cases which were pending in various other High Courts were also transferred to this Court.

17. On 27th July, 2004 this Court passed a detailed order and dealt with IA Nos. 1, 9 and 28 of 2004 and passed certain interim directions and put forward a proposal for appointment of a Committee. The gist of the said order is as under:

The Private Receiver appointed by Bombay High Court Justice (Retd) M.L. Pendse to submit status report to apprise the Hon'ble Court on the stage of proceedings.

RBI, SEBI and other investors were granted two weeks time to make

9

suggestions on the appointment of Central Committee to be nominated by this Court which should be entrusted with the responsibility of realising the assets, distributing the receipt

amongst the claimants after identifying their claims and investigating into siphoning off the funds by GFIL.

All pending applications directed to be listed for hearing on the next date.

IA No.1/2004 in TC No. 68/2003: The sale of 15 properties which tenders were issued by Provisional Liquidator not to be finalized but continue to receive the tenders.

IA No.9 in TC No. 2/2004: All accounts of GFIL, its subsidiaries and associate companies as per list in IA No.1 were directed not to be operated either by themselves, their officers/agents unless permitted by this Court. RBI to issue circulars to all banks in the country.

IA No.28/2004 in TC No. 2/2004 by Drive-in-Tourist Resorts Pvt. Ltd.: The Resort-Applicant undertakes to make payment of rent @ Rs. 1 lakh per month for the period 1st August, 2003 till Provisional Liquidator within two weeks. Thereupon the PSEB to be informed for restoring Electricity to the Resort. And further payment by the applicant to Provisional Liquidator to continue on month to month basis by 15th of each month. This is in interim arrangement. IA not disposed off.

18. Thereafter the matter came up before this Court on 17th August, 2004 and again this Court passed an order for appointment of a Committee and dismissed the applications of various parties to be impleaded as parties. Certain restraint orders were passed against the GFIL, its Directors, Officers, employees, agents and/or power of attorney holders from creating any third party rights on any of the assets. The gist of the said order is as under:

All petitioners in Transfer Petitions to file their copies of writ petitions and copies be given to SEBI & RBI and other parties within a month.

The Company, its Directors, Officers, Employees, agents and / or power of attorney holders are restrained from alienating, encumbering, creating any third party rights or transferring in any manner whatsoever any of the assets of the Company and/or their personal assets and restrained from making any withdrawals from

10

any of the accounts.

Proposal for appointment of committee recorded.

All applications for intervention/impleadment filed by the depositors / investors stand dismissed.

The depositors/investors must submit their claims before the Committee which will be appointed by the Court who will consider their claims. This Court will then decide how the assets of the Company should be distributed.

No other Court or Forum or Tribunal any claim or application for return of monies or interest as this Court will deal with the same after realization of all assets. If any claims already filed, the same shall remain stayed.

It was further clarified that criminal cases are not covered by this Order and can proceed.

IA Nos. 1,5,9,6,30,7,14,15,32 in TC No.2/2004 dismissed as not pressed.

IA No. 25 in TC No.2/2004 dismissed as withdrawn.

IA No. 11 in TC No.2/2004 dismissed as infructuous.

IA No. 28 in TC No.2/2004: Time to deposit extended by four weeks. If not deposited within four weeks, the earlier order to stand vacated.

Matters directed to be listed on 19th August, 2004.

19. On 19th of August, 2004, this Court had appointed Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.T. Thomas, a retired Judge of this Court, with an officer nominated by RBI and SEBI both as a Committee, with various directions which are summarized as under:

(i)The Chairman of the Committee at liberty to appoint CA to assist.

(ii)Committee to take in custody all assets of the company [GFIL] with the help of Police/DM, if required.

(iii)Committee to issue advertisements calling upon all

11

creditors to submit their claims before the Committee.

(iv)After realization of the assets and scrutinization of the claims the Committee to put up a report to this Court [in 6 months]

(v)The Provisional Liquidator and the Bombay High Court receiver discharged and directed to handover all books, assets etc. to the Committee.

(vi)Committee may have to visit and function at different places.

(vii)FDR's to remain in the name of Provisional Liquidator till maturity and thereafter in the joint names of Committee members.

(viii)Provisional Liquidator not to alienate or encumber the receipts in any manner.

(ix)Committee granted liberty to approach this Court.

20. On the inability expressed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.T. Thomas to head the Committee, this Court on 10th of September, 2004 appointed Mr. Justice R.N. Agarwal, who had been appointed as Provisional Liquidator by the Punjab and Haryana High Court in Company Petition No. 60/2001 as Chairman of the Committee along with an official each of the SEBI and RBI as members.

21. Thereafter the matter has been coming up before this Court from time to

time and the Court has been passing certain directions.

22. The Committee headed by Justice R.N. Agarwal has, inter alia, filed a status report dated 10th of August, 2006 supplemented by the report dated 2nd of September, 2006 seeking certain directions.

23. We have taken into consideration these status reports. As per these reports, the directions are sought by the Committee on the following points :

A. Reconstitution of the Committee:

B. Immovable properties - identification, taking possession and removal

12

of encroachments:

C. Directions regarding sale of properties:

D. Setting aside sale of immovable properties:

E. Various settlements by or on behalf of the respondent-company

F. Directions regarding claims made by investors on their investments:

G. Properties of Golden Group:

H. Action against Manzoor Ahmad Shah:

24. We would take up these points one by one and pass appropriate orders on each of them separately.

A. Reconstitution of the Committee:

25. Reconstitution of the Committee for faster results has been sought with the Chairman and other members who have experience and interest in the field work and also sale of properties. Also a small police force including an officer with the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police [DSP] is sought to be attached with the Committee. It was stated that the officials appointed by the SEBI and RBI as members of the Committee had little to contribute in matters of realization of properties. The Committee has suggested some names for induction in the Committee and also obtained telephonic consent from one of them.

26. Justice R.N. Agarwal shall continue to be the Chairman of the Committee.

27. Counsel appearing for the SEBI and Mr. R.K. Jain, learned senior

counsel appearing for the GFIL have no objection to such reconstitution of the

Committee and the officials of the SEBI being relieved. RBI is not a party before

us. Accordingly, we relieve the officials of SEBI as well as RBI from being

members of the Committee and in their places S/Shri H.L. Randev and B.S. Bedi,

former District and Sessions Judges in the State of Punjab, are appointed as

members of the Committee.

13

28. It is submitted by Shri R.K. Jain, learned senior counsel appearing for

the Company, that an officer of the GFIL should also be taken as a member of the

Committee which prayer is rejected. However it would be open to the

Committee, if it deems fit, to take assistance of any officer of the company to

identify the companies and their assets.

29. The Committee has not suggested the names of any officer from the

revenue or the police whom it seeks to associate with itself in discharging its

work effectively. We leave it to the Committee to appoint one retired revenue

officer as well as a police officer who it thinks to be of assistance.

30. The Chairman of the Committee shall determine the remuneration which

is to be paid to the other members of the Committee as well as the officers so

appointed. The Chairman of the Committee shall also be at liberty to requisition

the services of a revenue official and a police officer from the Chief Secretaries

of Punjab / Haryana who are directed to release the officers, so requisitioned, to

assist the Committee to effectively discharge the work entrusted to it.

B. Immovable properties - identification, taking possession and removal of encroachments:

31. Directions are sought to be given to the Deputy Commissioners and

other Civil and Revenue authorities of the States of Punjab and Uttaranchal to help in ascertaining the details of the properties owned by the GFIL and to extend all help and cooperation to recover the possession of such properties with the help of police, if and wherever required and to demarcate the lands belonging to the companies in accordance with the revenue entries relating to the year 2000 and onwards.

32. The GFIL or any of the other lawyers representing various other

claimants have no objection to issuance of the directions sought for by the

Committee under this point.

33. Accordingly, the Deputy Commissioner and other revenue authorities in

14

the States of Punjab / Haryana and Uttaranchal are directed to help the Committee in ascertaining the details of properties owned by GFIL and to extend all help and cooperation to recover the possession of such properties even with the help of police, if and when required, and to demarcate the lands belonging to the companies in accordance with the revenue entries relating to the year 1998 and onwards.

34. Chief Secretaries and the DGPs./IGPs. are directed to issue suitable

directions to all the Deputy Commissioners, police officers and civil servants to render such help.

35. The civil as well as police authorities are also directed to take action against the illegal encroachments and construction adjoining the Resort at Billa. Revenue authorities of the respective States are also directed to help in removal of such illegal encroachments.

C. Directions regarding sale of properties:

36. Directions for sale are sought in respect of the properties at Jharmari, lands at Village Kot Billa, Jaswant Garh and other adjoining villages and a Resort at Nalagarh, and the mode and procedure for the sale of the properties of GFIL, possession of which has been taken.

37. The Committee is put at liberty to put to sale the properties at Village Jharmari, lands at Village Kot Billa, Jaswant Garh and other adjoining villages and a Resort at Nalagarh and other properties of GFIL, possession of which has already been taken by the Committee, by auction after due publicity. The sale shall be subject to the confirmation by this Court. After the properties are put to sale, the Committee shall report to this Court about the auction sale effected which shall be subject to the final orders of this Court.

D. Setting aside sale of immovable properties:

38. The Committee has sought the following directions :

(a) to issue directions for setting aside the illegal sales of properties of

15

GFIL and its subsidiary and associate companies for the following periods contrary to the orders passed by this Court from time to time and to bring back the status quo ante as of the date of appointment of the Provisional Liquidator:

1. Period prior to the appointment of provisional liquidator in the winding up petition in Punjab High Court / Delhi High Court and their respective restraint orders.
2. Period between the appointment of provisional liquidator and the date of restraint order dated 17th August, 2004 passed by this Court and the appointment of the present Committee; and
3. From 17th August, 2004 till date

39. Insofar as the period prior to the appointment of provisional liquidator in the winding up petition in the Punjab and Haryana High Court and Delhi High Court is concerned, the Bombay High Court in its order dated 23rd November, 1998 had restrained the company, its subsidiary as well as directors not to dispose of the properties of the respondent company or its subsidiaries or its directors till

further orders. It would be to the Committee to make appropriate recommendations to this Court regarding the status of sales made after the restraint order passed by the Bombay High Court on 23rd November, 1998. Any application putting a claim for settlement of properties after the restraint order passed by the Bombay High Court should be made to the Committee which shall be at liberty to make appropriate recommendations to this Court for its consideration.

40. Insofar as the settlement/sales of immovable properties for the period between the appointment of provisional liquidator passed by the High Court of Punjab and Haryana and the restraint order dated 17th August, 2004 passed by this Court are concerned, any sales/settlement made contrary to the orders passed after the appointment of Provisional Liquidator by the High Court of Punjab and Haryana on 20th January, 2003 and the restraint order passed on 17th August, 2004 by this Court shall be ignored and the Committee would be at liberty to get hold of those properties by taking vacant possession thereof with the help of civil and police authorities and deal with them in accordance with the directions

16

already given.

E. Various settlements by or on behalf of the respondent-company:

41. The following directions are sought by the Committee:

- (i) decide the legality and validity of thousands of settlements alleged to have been entered into with the Respondent Company under the Resolution dated 5th December, 2000.
- (ii) deal with the surplus land declared by the Punjab government under the Urban Land Ceiling Act or otherwise; and
- (iii) issue appropriate orders and directions regarding properties of the subsidiary and associate companies including Golden Projects Ltd.

42. The directions issued in clause (a)(i) of point D regarding setting aside of immovable properties would ipso facto be applicable to the directions sought

in clause (i) of Point E.

(ii). The Committee shall be at liberty to take appropriate steps by file

revisions, appeals, representation or avail of any other alternate remedy to deal with the surplus land declared by the Punjab Govt. under the Urban Land Ceiling Act or otherwise.

(iii) Mr. Jain has filed a list of 110 companies which formed the group

companies of GFIL dividing them into three categories (a) GFIL and its assets mentioned at serial Nos. 1-90 (b) Golden project and its associate companies

mentioned at Serial Nos. 91-104, which do not form part of the GFIL and (c)

Societies and Trusts mentioned at Serial Nos. 105-110, which would also be

outside the GFIL.

43. Mr. Jain, learned senior counsel for the Company, has no objection to the Committee taking over the properties and assets of the companies mentioned at serial nos. 1-90. The Committee would be at liberty to take hold of the properties of the companies mentioned at Sl. Nos. 1-90 as well and deal with them as a part of the properties of GFIL.

17

44. Insofar as the properties of the companies mentioned at Sl. Nos. 91-104 belonging to Golden Project and its associates and the properties of societies and trusts mentioned at Sl. Nos. 105-110 are concerned, Mr. Jain states that he would seek instructions and file an affidavit if they can be taken as the properties of GFIL, within two weeks from today.

F. Directions regarding claims made by investors on their investments:

45. The following directions are sought

(a) to decide upon the cut off date for entertaining claims

(b) to accept claims for consideration of only those claimants who have original authenticated receipts issued by the respondent company;

t

(c) to categorise the range of investment by depositors and treat the small, medium and big investors in separate categories;

(d) not to permit entertainment of claims based on alleged deposit accepted by the Companies agents in the year 2001 till date, even after the closure of the business of the Company. No claim without clear proof of deposit of money with the company be directed to be considered:

(e) to reject the claims of investors of Golden Projects Ltd. Since the investors were and are claiming to be under the impression that all the companies known as Golden Group of Companies belong to GFIL and are owned and managed by the Sayal family.

46. By an order dated 20th January, 2005 this Court had directed the Committee to issue advertisement fixing the cut off date which was extended by three months. The committee issued advertisement in 25 newspapers on 19th and 20th February 2005 inviting applications within three months of the said date.

47. Counsel appearing for the Committee has stated before us that the claims have been received even after 20th May, 2005 and the Committee has included all the claims filed before it up to 10th of August 2006. Cut off date is fixed as 10th August, 2006. Hence, all claims filed before the Committee by the cut off date fixed, i.e., 10th August, 2006 be taken into consideration for disbursement of the assets of the GFIL after verification of the claims. The

Committee should accept the claims of only those claimants, who have original authenticated receipts issued by the GFIL. The Committee shall categorise the range of investment by depositors and treat the small, medium and big investors in separate categories. Appropriate orders regarding disbursement of the amount among the small, medium and big investors shall be passed at a later date, after the total amount of sale of the properties is received. The Committee shall not entertain claims passed on alleged deposits accepted by any agents in the year 2001 till date after the closure of the business of the GFIL. No claim without clear proof of deposit of money with the company shall be considered.

G. Properties of Golden Group:

48. Committee has sought powers to investigate and ascertain the fund flow and acquisition of properties out of the investors' fund in GFIL and to authorize it to take possession of all such properties as in case of properties of GFIL. A further direction to hand over the possession of the Golden Group complex situated in Punjab, is sought under this point.

49. So far as the properties of the Golden Group, which can be clubbed with GFIL, is concerned, we have already passed appropriate directions on the applications filed in Court by the GFIL.

H. Action against Manzoor Ahmad Shah:

50. Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Shah [M.A. Shah], one of the investors, is in possession of certain flats at village Jarout, Tehsil Derabassi in District Mohali. He had filed CWP No. 693/04 in this Court, seeking a mandamus not to treat the properties under his occupation as the properties of the company as his claims have already been settled with the company. The petition was rejected on 5th January, 2005 and the following order was passed:

"As set out in the petition, this Court has appointed an Administrator of the golden Forests (I) Limited. The purpose is to see there is an equitable distribution amongst all the depositors and creditors. Preferential treatment to any particular depositors and creditors cannot be permitted. It is not open for the company to allot any premises to any particular party, prayer asked for therefore stands rejected. The petitioner will hand over the

19

property to the Administrator if the Administrator has not already taken charge thereof. The writ petition stands dismissed."

51. It is apparent from the reading of the afore-quoted order of this Court that M.A. Shah could not be treated as a preferential depositor or creditor. The company was not at liberty to allot premises to any particular party. M.A. Shah was directed to handover the property to the Administrator if the Administrator

has not already taken charge of the same. In spite of the said direction, M.A.

Shah has not handed over the property to the Administrator. Mr. Shah is

directed to handover the vacant possession of the property to the Committee

forthwith and, in case he fails to handover the same within a period of fifteen

days from today, the Committee shall be at liberty to approach the Deputy

Commissioner, Mohali, to get the vacant possession delivered with the help of police force, if need be.

52. It is reported to us that M.A. Shah has parted with possession with a part of the property to Punjab College of Engineering and Technology [for short "the College"] for running hostel and a mess in the said flats.

53. The College is directed to report to the Committee to prove its title over the property and in case it has taken over possession from M.A. Shah, then the College is directed to handover the vacant possession of the same to the Committee and, in such case, the College would be at liberty to recover the money from M.A. Shah. Similarly, any other person who has taken possession of the property through M.A. Shah, shall also handover the vacant possession of the property to the Committee. The Committee is put at liberty to recover the vacant possession of such properties with the help of civil / revenue authorities within one month from today.

54. Applications filed by the settlers would now be dealt with by the Committee in view of the directions contained in this order.

55. IA Nos. 6/05, 16-18/05, 19/05, 20/05, 21-22/05, 36/05, 41-42/05, 46/05, 47-48/05, 23/06, 49/06

These applications are dismissed with liberty to approach the Committee for appropriate orders in accordance with the directions issued in this order.

56. IA 45 has been filed by Shri Tapas Kumar Khan seeking certain directions. He is directed to approach the Committee and the Committee shall pass appropriate orders. IA stands disposed of.

57. IA 50 is dismissed.

58. IA 4 in WP 188/2004
No orders. To be taken up with main case.

59. IA 44 is dismissed.

60. Thus, all the applications for impleadment / intervention / directions / clarification / modification stand disposed of accordingly.

(J.S. Rawat)

AR-cum-PS

(Kanwal Singh)

Court Master