HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR

Order Sheet

Writ Appeal No. 410 of 2021

Gurdip Singh Virdi

Versus

The Oriental Insurance Company Limited & Others

27/01/2023	Heard Mr. Shubhank Tiwari, learned counsel for the appellant. Also heard Mr. Abhishek Sinha, learned senior counsel, assisted by Mr. Samrath Singh Marhas, learned counsel, appearing for the respondents. I.A. No. 1 of 2021 is an application for condonation of delay. The respondents had entered appearance on 24.12.2021 but till date, no objection to the said application has been filed despite having prayed for time to file objection on 25.08.2022. Mr. Sinha orally objected to delay being condoned. The impugned order is dated 28.11.2019 and the appeal came to be filed on 20.09.2021. Though delay is stated to be 614 days, what cannot be lost sight of the fact is that from 15.03.2020, the entire country was going through Covid-19 pandemic. It is stated in the petition that the Hon'ble Supreme Court extended the period of limitation for the period 15.03.2020 to 02.10.2021. Though period of limitation expired prior to 15.03.2020, we

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are of the considered opinion that when the country was ravaged by Covid-19 pandemic, delay for the aforesaid period requires to be condoned.

Accordingly, delay is condoned.

I.A. No. 1 of 2021 is allowed.

Registry will list the appeal for consideration after two weeks.

Sd/-
(**Arup Kumar Goswami**)
Chief Justice

Sd/-
(**Rakesh Mohan Pandey**)
Judge

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