



The Special Leave Petitions are accordingly dismissed.

However, on the request of the learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner, we extend the time for compliance of the order passed by the High Court by a further period of two months.

Pending applications, if any, are disposed of.”

- 2 The order of the High Court which was challenged before this Court was dated 21 February 2019 in MCRC No 4909 of 2019 and 4901 of 2019. The High court prescribed a time schedule for the payment of a total amount of Rs one crore in instalments between 1 April 2019 and 1 December 2019 as a condition for the grant of bail. Subsequently, an order was passed by the High Court on 1 May 2019 rescheduling the payments. Thereafter, by an order dated 2 December 2019, the High Court clarified the earlier order to a certain extent.
- 3 By the order of this Court dated 7 January 2020, an extension of two months was granted to pay the total amount. Mr Sanjay Parikh, learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the applicants states that an amount of Rs 70 lakhs still remains to be paid. He submits that the delay has arisen due to the precipitate decline in business activities during the on-going pandemic and the applicants will comply with the direction for payment, for which a further extension of time may be allowed. Mr Parikh submitted that besides the amount which is to be paid by the applicants, other members of the family have been subjected to conditions for payment. By the Miscellaneous Applications, the applicants have sought a rescheduling of payments due by the applicants between 10 October 2020 and 1 December 2021.
- 4 In view of the previous order of this Court dated 7 January 2020, which granted two months' time to the applicants, there is no question of this Court rescheduling the remaining dues over a period as long as until December 2021, as prayed. However, considering the difficulties which have arisen due to the

outbreak of Covid - 19, it would be appropriate if the applicants are directed to pay a further amount of Rs 30 lakhs expeditiously conditional on which they may be granted permission to move the High Court for rescheduling the remaining instalments.

5 Having regard to the situation which has arisen due to the onset of Covid-19, time is granted to the applicants to demonstrate their *bona fides*. We accordingly direct that the applicants shall pay:

- (i) An amount of Rs 10 lakhs within one week from today;
- (ii) An amount of Rs 10 lakhs by 15 November 2020; and
- (iii) An amount of Rs 10 lakhs on or before 30 November 2020.

6 The above amount shall be payable in the manner as indicated in the order of the High Court. Conditional on the applicants effecting the above payment, we grant them liberty to move the High Court for rescheduling the instalments of the amounts which remain to be paid.

7 Until 30 November 2020, no coercive steps shall be taken against the applicants so as to enable them to comply with the above directions. In the event that there is a breach in compliance with any part of the above directions, the applicants shall lose the benefit of the present order. In the event that the applicants comply with payment in accord with the above time schedule, we grant them liberty to move the High Court for considering their application for rescheduling further instalments.

8 The above order has been passed in view of the assurance of the applicants that they have a genuine desire to make complete payments and the delay has occurred due to the prevailing pandemic.

9 The Miscellaneous Applications stand disposed of.

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