

BEFORE THE ADJUDICATING OFFICER
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA
[ADJUDICATION ORDER NO. EAD/PM-AB/AO/26/2018-19]

UNDER SECTION 15-I OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA ACT, 1992 READ WITH RULE 5 OF SEBI (PROCEDURE FOR HOLDING INQUIRY AND IMPOSING PENALTIES BY ADJUDICATING OFFICER) RULES, 1995

In respect of
Shri V Raghvendra Prasad
(PAN: AFHPP5421J)

In the matter of
Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited

FACTS OF THE CASE IN BRIEF

1. Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) conducted investigation in the scrip of Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (hereinafter referred to as "**Company/MCX**") for the period of April 27, 2012 to July 31, 2013 and it was observed that Shri V. Raghvendra Prasad ("**The Noticee**") had sold shares of MCX and had failed to make necessary disclosures under the SEBI(Prevention of Insider Trading) Regulations, 1992 ("**PIT Regulations**").

APPOINTMENT OF ADJUDICATING OFFICER

2. The undersigned was appointed as Adjudicating Officer under section 15I of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (hereinafter referred to as "**SEBI Act**") read with rule 3 of SEBI (Procedure for Holding Inquiry and Imposing Penalty by Adjudicating Officer) Rules, 1995 (hereinafter referred to as the '**Adjudication Rules**') to inquire into and adjudge under section 15G of the SEBI Act the alleged violations of

provisions of Regulation 13(4) r/w 13(5) of PIT Regulations by the Noticee.

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE, REPLY AND PERSONAL HEARING

3. A Show Cause Notice dated December 14, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as “**SCN**”) was issued to the Noticee under Rule 4 of the Adjudication Rules to show cause as to why an inquiry should not be initiated and penalty be not imposed under section 15A(b) of the SEBI Act, 1992 for the alleged violations specified in the SCN.
4. Vide letter dated January 1, 2018, the Noticee replied to the SCN. The summary of submissions is as follows:
 - a. The Noticee was not an officer in terms of Reg. 13(4) of the PIT Regulations on December 17, 2012 and hence was not required to make the disclosure.
 - b. As per the Code of Conduct for prevention of Insider Trading (“Code of Conduct”) formulated by MCX the definition of “Officer” included certain people from April 16, 2012. This definition was amended on November 3, 2012 to include more people in its ambit. Further, the said definition was again amended on January 3, 2013 wherein more people were covered in its ambit.
 - c. The Noticee was covered in the ambit of “Officer” after the amendment of definition on January 3, 2013 and not prior to that. The Noticee has made all requisite disclosures after January 3, 2013 in terms of PIT Regulations.
5. An opportunity of personal hearing was granted to the Noticee on August 21, 2018 in accordance with Rule 4(3) of the AO Rules. The Noticee and

his authorized representative appeared on the said date and reiterated the submissions made vide letter dated January 1, 2018.

CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES AND FINDINGS

6. I have carefully perused the reply to the SCN and oral submissions of the Noticee and the documents available on record. The issues that arise for consideration in the present case are :
- I. Whether the Noticee was covered under the ambit of “Officer” as specified in Reg. 13(4) of the PIT Regulations?
 - II. Whether the Noticee failed to make any disclosure as envisaged in Reg. 13(4) of the PIT Regulations? and
 - III. Does the violation, if any, attract monetary penalty under section 15A(b) of SEBI Act?
7. Before moving forward, it is pertinent to refer to the relevant provisions of PIT Regulations which reads as under:-

PIT REGULATIONS

Continual Disclosure

13(4) *Any person who is a director or officer of a listed company, shall disclose to the company and the stock exchange where the securities are listed in Form D, the total number of shares or voting rights held and change in shareholding or voting rights, if there has been a change in such holdings of such person and his dependents (as defined by the company) from the last disclosure made under sub-regulation (2) or under this sub regulation, and the change exceeds Rs. 5 lakh in value or 25,000 shares or 1% of total shareholding or voting rights, whichever is lower.*

FINDINGS:

8. It is seen from the Investigation Report (hereinafter referred to as “IR”) and the relevant documents that the Noticee sold a total of 1,550 shares of MCX during the investigation period on 4 dates viz. December 17, 2012, January 14, 2013, February 13, 2013 and February 14, 2013. As per the SCN, no disclosures under Reg. 13(4) have been made for sale of shares done on December 17, 2012.
9. It is observed from the IR that the Noticee was an “officer” as mentioned by the Code of Conduct of MCX. On perusal of the Code of Conduct it is observed that the definition of the term Officer had been modified on 2 occasions as submitted by the Noticee. Further, the Noticee has also submitted a letter dated January 3, 2013 addressed by MCX to Bombay Stock Exchange informing about the change in definition of the term “Officer”. The said letter lists the names of employees additionally covered under the definition of “Officer” after the amendment along with their shareholding on December 31, 2012. The name of the Noticee is also included in the said list.
10. It can be concluded from the amendments to the Code of Conduct and the letter dated January 3, 2013 that the Noticee became the “Officer” as per code of conduct only on January 3, 2013 and was not covered under the ambit of Reg. 13(4) prior to the said date. As the Noticee was not an officer prior to January 3, 2013, he was not liable for disclosure of the transaction executed by him on December 17, 2012 which is prior to January 3, 2013.
11. Since the Noticee was not covered under Reg. 13(4), there is no need to consider issue No. 2 and 3.

ORDER

12. For the aforesaid reasons, the allegations levelled in the Show Cause Notice EAD/AO-PM/AA/OW/31632/2017 dated December 14, 2017 alleging violations of provisions of Regulation 13(4) r/w 13(5) of PIT Regulations, 1992 by the Noticee i.e. Shri V. Raghvendra Prasad cannot be sustained and the SCN is disposed of.

13. In terms of rule 6 of the Adjudication Rules, copies of this order are sent to Noticee and also to the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Date: August 31, 2018
Place: Mumbai

Prasanta Mahapatra
Adjudicating Officer