

Ramesh Chand Chaurasia & Anr vs Union Of India & Ors on 14 May, 2019

Author: Anup Jairam Bhambhani

Bench: Chief Justice, Anup Jairam Bhambhani

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* IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

+ W.P.(C) 5126/2019 & CM Nos. 22679-80/2019

RAMESH CHAND CHAURASIA & ANR Petitioners
Through: Mr. Awnish Kumar, Advocate.
versus

UNION OF INDIA & ORS Respondents
Through: Mr. Bhagwan Swarup Shukla, CGSC
for UOI with Mr. Mukesh Kumar
Pandey, Advocate.

CORAM:
HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANUP JAIRAM BHAMBHANI
ORDER

% 14.05.2019 CM No. 22680/2019 (for exemption) Allowed, subject to just exceptions.

W.P.(C) 5126/2019 & CM No. 22679/2019 (for stay)

1. This writ petition has been filed by persons who are directors in a company incorporated under the provisions of the Indian Companies Act, 1956.
2. Apart from this company, these petitioners have stated in the writ petition that they were directors in other companies as well.
3. This writ petition has been instituted in view of communication/list issued, arising from or related to, the list dated 7th December, 2018 published in public domain on the website of Respondent No.1 issued under Section 164(2)(a) of the Companies Act, 2013 by the respondents disqualifying the petitioners as Directors in the Companies wheresoever they may be Directors. This disqualification has resulted for the reason that there was default in submitting returns which were statutorily required to be filed with the Registrar of Companies with regard to the affairs of the Company in question, for a continuous period of three financial years.
4. The writ petition inter alia seeks quashing of the said notice/list dated 7th December, 2018 published in public domain on the website of Respondent No.1.

5. The matter however does not rest here. Apart from the disqualification under Section 164(2)(a), the writ petitioners have stated that in purported exercise of power under Section 248(1) of the Companies Act, 2013, the Registrar of Companies has additionally struck off the name of the said company from the Register of Companies for the period w.e.f. 1st November, 2017 to 31st October, 2022.

6. The writ petitioners have raised several questions of fact and law challenging these acts and orders of the Registrar of Companies. Inter alia, it has been contended that the action of the Registrar of Companies in disqualifying the petitioners under Section 164(2)(a) is in gross violation of the principles of natural justice.

7. It cannot be denied that the issues raised in this writ petition require adjudication and are of grave importance so far as the working of the spirit, intendment and object of the Companies Act, 2013, more specifically the manner in which the respondents would operate Sections 164 and 248 of the enactment.

8. Issue notice to the respondents. The learned counsel accepts notice on behalf of the respondents.

9. Till the next date of hearing, there shall be a stay of the list dated 7th December, 2018 and any other notices or communications or lists received or published in public domain on the website of Respondent No.1 whereby the petitioners were declared disqualified as Director under Section 164(2)(a) of the Companies Act, 2013.

10. The DIN numbers as well as digital signatures of the petitioners shall be forthwith revived.

11. It also cannot be denied that so far as the legal submissions are concerned, several other writ petitions have raised identical questions of law and for this reason, are required to be heard together.

12. We, therefore, direct that an individual counter affidavit dealing with the factual averments in this writ petition shall be filed separately within four weeks from today. The full details of the issuance and service of the notice(s) shall be placed on record with copies of the supporting documents. Rejoinder thereto, if any, shall be filed before the next date of hearing.

13. The respondents shall produce the original records relating to this company with regard to the impugned notices before this court on the next date of hearing.

14. List on 19th August, 2019.

CHIEF JUSTICE ANUP JAIRAM BHAMBHANI, J.

MAY 14, 2019 j