

**BEFORE THE ADJUDICATING OFFICER
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA
[SETTLEMENT ORDER NO.: Order/PM/NK/2019-20/6821-6824]**

SETTLEMENT ORDER

In respect of Settlement Application Nos. 3960/2019, 3961/2019, 3962/2019 and 3963/2019 submitted by Ashok Vishwanath Hiremath (HUF), Ms. Chitra Ashok Hiremath, Ms. Supriya Ashok Hiremath and Suresh V Hiremath respectively.

In the matter of

ASTEC LIFE SCIENCES LIMITED

1. Securities and Exchange Board of India (hereinafter referred as 'SEBI') initiated adjudication proceedings to inquire into and adjudge, under section 15A(b) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (hereinafter referred to as 'SEBI Act, 1992'), the alleged violation of provisions of Regulation 30(2) read with Regulation 30(3) of the SEBI (Substantial Acquisitions of Shares and Takeover) Regulations, 2011 (hereinafter referred to as **SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 2011**) by the Noticees, **Ashok Vishwanath Hiremath (HUF)** (hereinafter referred to as applicant 1), **Ms. Chitra Ashok Hiremath** (hereinafter referred to as applicant 2), **Ms. Supriya Ashok Hiremath** (hereinafter referred to as applicant 3) and **Suresh V Hiremath** (hereinafter referred to as applicant 4), (hereinafter collectively referred to as 'Applicants') in the matter of Astec Life Sciences Limited (hereinafter referred to as Astec).
2. The Shares of Astec Life Sciences Limited (**hereinafter referred to as the Company/ Astec**) were listed on BSE Limited (**hereinafter referred to as BSE**) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (**hereinafter referred to as NSE**)

3. In this regard the following Show Cause Notices (hereinafter referred to as 'SCN') were issued in the matter to :

Sl. No.	SCN NO.	Date	Noticee
1	EAD-6/AO/PM/NK/ALSL/ 11719/2/2019	May 09, 2019	Ashok Vishwanath Hiremath (HUF)
2	EAD-6/AO/PM/NK/ALSL/ 11719/5/2019	May 09, 2019	Ms. Chitra Ashok Hiremath
3	EAD-6/AO/PM/NK/ALSL/ 11719/4/2019	May 09, 2019	Ms. Supriya Ashok Hiremath
4	EAD-6/AO/PM/NK/ALSL/ 11719/3/2019	May 09, 2019	Suresh V Hiremath

4. The SCN stated that SEBI while examining the draft letter of offer filed by Godrej Agrovet Limited (Acquirers) to acquire 26% Equity shares of Astec Life Sciences Limited (Target Company), observed certain non-compliances with regard to the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 1997 and SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 2011. The details of the non-compliance by the Noticees/Applicants are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Applicant	Due Date of Disclosure	Actual Date of Disclosure	Delay (No. of days)	Violation
1	Ashok Vishwanath Hiremath (HUF)	12/04/2012	16/04/2012	4	Regulation 30 (2) of SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 2011 read with Regulation 30(3) of SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 2011
2	Ashok Vishwanath Hiremath (HUF)	09/04/2013	21/08/2013	134	
3	Ms. Chitra Ashok Hiremath	12/04/2012	16/04/2012	4	
4	Ms. Chitra Ashok Hiremath	09/04/2013	21/08/2013	134	
5	Ms. Supriya Ashok Hiremath	12/04/2012	16/04/2012	4	
6	Ms. Supriya Ashok Hiremath	09/04/2013	21/08/2013	134	

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7	Suresh V Hiremath	12/04/2012	16/04/2012	4	
8	Suresh V Hiremath	09/04/2013	21/08/2013	134	

5. Pending adjudication proceedings, the Applicants submitted a combined Settlement Application dated June 17, 2019. The applicants stated that since all belong to the promoter group, they be treated as one in view of the Hon'ble SAT observation in the matter of Gopalakrishnan Raman & Ors. Vs. SEBI. The applicants also submitted an undertaking in the format prescribed by SEBI in terms of SEBI (Settlement of Administrative and Civil Proceedings) Regulations, 2018 (hereinafter referred to as 'Settlement Regulations'). The Applicants, without admitting or denying the findings of fact and conclusions of law, proposed to settle, through a settlement order, the present proceedings initiated vide Show Cause Notices as mentioned in paragraph 4 above.
6. Pursuant to the said settlement application, the Authorized Representatives of the Applicants attended a meeting with the Internal Committee (hereinafter referred to as 'IC') on November 22, 2019. The settlement terms as proposed by the Applicants was placed before the High Powered Advisory Committee (HPAC) in its meeting held on January 22, 2020. After considering the facts and circumstances of the case, the HPAC recommended that the case may be settled on payment of Rs. 3,17,900/- (Rupees Three Lakh Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred only) towards settlement charges which were approved by the panel of the Whole Time Members, SEBI, on January 30, 2020.
7. The Applicants have remitted the sum of Rs. 3,17,900/- (Rupees Three Lakh Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred only) vide demand draft No. 833047 dated February 03, 2020, drawn on Kotak Mahindra Bank, payable at Mumbai, towards the terms of settlement in the matter.
8. In view of the above, in terms of Regulation 15(1) of Settlement Regulations, it is hereby ordered that this settlement order disposes of the adjudication proceedings initiated against the Applicants vide Show Cause Notices as under:

Sl. No.	SCN NO.	Date	Noticee
1	EAD-6/AO/PM/NK/ALSL/ 11719/2/2019	May 09, 2019	Ashok Vishwanath Hiremath (HUF)
2	EAD-6/AO/PM/NK/ALSL/ 11719/5/2019	May 09, 2019	Ms. Chitra Ashok Hiremath
3	EAD-6/AO/PM/NK/ALSL/ 11719/4/2019	May 09, 2019	Ms. Supriya Ashok Hiremath
4	EAD-6/AO/PM/NK/ALSL/ 11719/3/2019	May 09, 2019	Suresh V Hiremath

9. This order is without prejudice to the right of SEBI to take enforcement actions including commencing/ reopening of the proceedings against the Applicants, if SEBI finds that:
- any representation made by the Applicants in the settlement proceedings are subsequently discovered to be untrue; or
 - the Applicants breach any of the clauses/conditions of undertakings/waivers filed during the current settlement proceedings.
10. In terms of Regulation 17 of Settlement Regulations, a copy of this order is being sent to the Applicant and is published on the website of SEBI.

Date: February 18, 2020

Place: Mumbai

PRASANTA MAHAPATRA

ADJUDICATING OFFICER