

**BEFORE THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA, MUMBAI
CORAM: S. RAMAN, WHOLE TIME MEMBER**

ORDER

Under Sections 11(1), 11(4), 11A and 11B of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 in the matter of Fantasy Infraventure & Agrimart India Limited and its Directors, viz. Shri Ranjeet Kumar (DIN:03638923, PAN:BDMPK7608E), Shri Ram Kailash (DIN:03638921, PAN:AVNPK2820L) and Shri Rajoo (DIN:03638915).

1. Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") received a reference dated January 11, 2013 from the Reserve Bank of India ("RBI") enclosing a complaint against Fantasy Infraventure & Agrimart India Limited (herein after referred to as 'FIAIL' or 'the company') along with a copy of a brochure cum application form for subscription of Redeemable Preference Shares ('RPS') issued by FIAIL.
2. As a part of preliminary inquiry, SEBI vide letter March 08, 2013 advised FIAIL to furnish *inter alia* the following information viz. -
 - i. Copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company;
 - ii. Copies of Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss accounts of the company since incorporation as filed with the concerned Registrar of Companies ("RoC");
 - iii. Copies of Annual returns of the company;
 - iv. Names of the past and present promoters/Key Managerial Personnel of the company;
 - v. Number of plans/schemes launched/proposed;
 - vi. Terms and Conditions of each such Plan/scheme;
 - vii. Application forms that are required to be submitted by investors and sample copies of certificates issued to the investors.

However, SEBI did not receive any reply from the company.

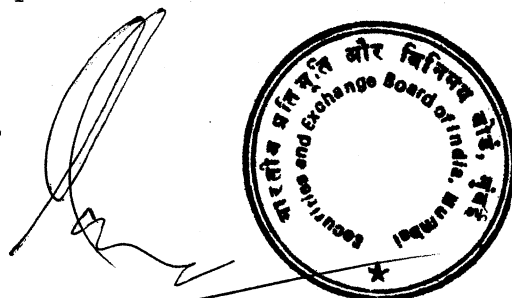
3. SEBI also received some more complaints on October 28, 2013 and May 26, 2014 regarding mobilisation of funds by FIAIL through the issuance of RPS.



4. SEBI vide letter dated May 29, 2013 also sought following information/documents from RoC, Kanpur, viz. -
- Latest address of the registered office of the company;
 - Any other address for correspondence of the company, available on record;
 - Names of all the past and present Directors of the company since incorporation including period of directorship of each such Director, etc.;
 - Copies of Memorandum and Articles of Association, Annual Returns, Form No(s). 32, Balance Sheets as well as any other document filed by the company with the office of the RoC.
5. SEBI vide a reminder letter dated June 11, 2013 to FIAIL once again advised FIAIL to furnish *inter alia* following documents/information, viz.
- Quantum of funds raised and shares allotted pursuant to the issue of redeemable preference shares;
 - Number of allottees;
 - Copies of Prospectus/brochures, application forms, advertisement and any other document in connection with the issue of the redeemable preference shares;
 - Copies of board resolutions passed at the meeting of the Board of Directors authorizing the issue of redeemable preference shares;
 - Funds raised pursuant to the closure of the issue, information memorandum and other details pertaining to the issue;
 - Copies of Annual Report and Annual Return filed with the RoC for the FY 2011-12 and FY 2012-13;
 - Filings with RoC regarding issue of redeemable preference shares;

However, the said letter was returned undelivered by postal authorities.

6. RoC, Kanpur vide letter dated June 13, 2013 provided *inter alia* copies of Form 18, Form 2, Form 5, Form 32, Memorandum and Articles of Association, Annual Returns (Form 20B) and Form 23AC (for filing of Balance sheet) filed by FIAIL with RoC.
7. Efforts were also made to obtain the relevant information/documents from Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) website i.e. MCA21 portal.



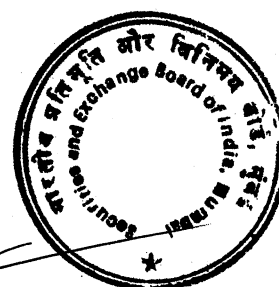
8. The material available on record i.e. information/documents obtained from RoC, Kanpur; information/documents obtained from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs' website i.e. 'MCA 21 Portal' ; complaints received and the documents enclosed there with have been perused. On an examination of the same, it is observed that-

- i FIAIL (CIN: U45400UP2011PLC046932) was incorporated on October 11, 2011 with the RoC, Kanpur having its registered office at 588/A, OM Sadan, Ground Floor, Hanuman Nagar, Bahadur Ganj Road, Bhity, Maunath Bhanjan, Uttar Pradesh, India -275101.
- ii The directors of FIAIL are Shri Ranjeet Kumar, Shri Ram Kailash and Shri Rajoo.
- iii It is observed from brochure cum application forms provided by complainants that FIAIL issued RPS under the following terms and conditions:

Plan	1	2	3	4	5
Issue Price Minimum 10 RPS	1000/-	1000/-	1000/-	1000/-	1000/-
Redeemable Period	4½ Yrs	8½ Yrs	10½ Yrs	11 ½ Yrs	15 Yrs
Redemption Premium	1000/-	4000/-	7000/-	9000/-	14000/-
Redemption Amount	2,000/-	5,000/-	8,000/-	10,000/-	15,000/-

- a) Purpose of the issue: The funds raised through this placement of redeemable preference shares be invested after diligence in the corporate having interests in the various sectors including food products, Water Treatment Plant, Soda Water, Real Estate & Hotel etc.
- b) Authority of the issue: The shares are being issued pursuant to the resolution passed at a meeting of a board of directors of the company held on 11.10.2011
- c) Who can invest: Individual, Trusts, Corporate Bodies, Minor (through Guardian), Financial Institution, mutual funds, HUFs and Co-operative Bodies.
- d) Size of the Issue: Rs. 1 Crore, with an option to retain over subscription to be decided by board of directors."

It is also stated in the brochure cum application form that the company is privately placing redeemable preference shares.



9. It is observed from the copies of the Form 2 filed by the company with the RoC that the company allotted 19,966 RPS of face value Rs. 100/- each to 127 investors in FY 2012-13 and mobilised funds amounting to Rs.19,96,600/-. The details of RPS allotted by FIAIL are as under:

Financial Year	Date of Allotment	No. of RPS allotted	Amount Mobilised (Rs.)	No. of Allottees
2012-2013	12/06/2012	1,000	1,00,000	14
	09/11/2012	18,966	18,96,600	113
Total		19,966	19,96,600	127

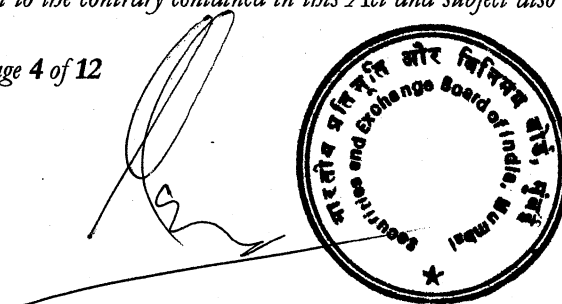
10. In the context of the abovementioned details, the issue for determination in the instant matter is whether the mobilization of funds by FIAIL through the *offer of RPS*, is in accordance with the provisions of the SEBI Act, 1992 ("**SEBI Act**") and the Companies Act, 1956.
11. The jurisdiction of SEBI over various provisions of the Companies Act in the case of public companies, whether listed or unlisted, when they issue and transfer securities at the relevant time flows from the provisions of Section 55A of the Companies Act, 1956. While examining the scope of Section 55A of the Companies Act, 1956, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in **Sahara India Real Estate Corporation Limited & Ors. vs. SEBI (Civil Appeal no. 9813 of 2011) (Judgment dated August 31, 2012)** (hereinafter referred to as the "**Sahara Case**"), had observed :

"We, therefore, hold that, so far as the provisions enumerated in the opening portion of Section 55A of the Companies Act, so far as they relate to issue and transfer of securities and non-payment of dividend is concerned, SEBI has the power to administer in the case of listed public companies and in the case of those public companies which intend to get their securities listed on a recognized stock exchange in India."

12. In this regard –

- i. Reference is also made to Sections 67(1) and 67(3) of the Companies Act, 1956, which are reproduced as under :

"67(1) Any reference in this Act or in the articles of a company to offering shares or debentures to the public shall, subject to any provision to the contrary contained in this Act and subject also to the



provisions of sub-sections (3) and (4), be construed as including a reference to offering them to any section of the public, whether selected as members or debenture holders of the company concerned or as clients of the person issuing the prospectus or in any other manner.

(2) Any reference in this Act or in the articles of a company to invitations to the public to subscribe for shares or debentures shall, subject as aforesaid, be construed as including a reference to invitations to subscribe for them extended to any section of the public, whether selected as members or debenture holders of the company concerned or as clients of the person issuing the prospectus or in any other manner.

(3) No offer or invitation shall be treated as made to the public by virtue of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), as the case may be, if the offer or invitation can properly be regarded, in all the circumstances-

(a) as not being calculated to result, directly or indirectly, in the shares or debentures becoming available for subscription or purchase by persons other than those receiving the offer or invitation; or

(b) otherwise as being a domestic concern of the persons making and receiving the offer or invitation

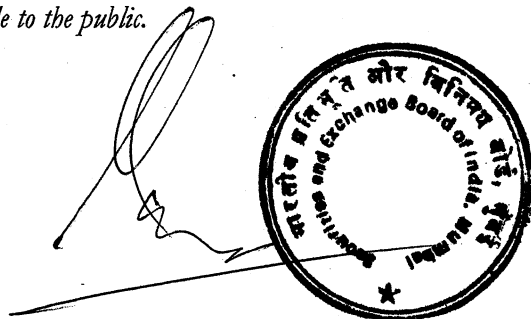
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Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall apply in a case where the offer or invitation to subscribe for shares or debentures is made to fifty persons or more:

Provided further that nothing contained in the first proviso shall apply to non-banking financial companies or public financial institutions specified in section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956)."

- ii. While examining the scope of Section 67 of the Companies Act, 1956, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the *Sahara Case* observed :

"Section 67(1) deals with the offer of shares and debentures to the public and Section 67(2) deals with invitation to the public to subscribe for shares and debentures and how those expressions are to be understood, when reference is made to the Act or in the articles of a company. The emphasis in Section 67(1) and (2) is on the "section of the public". Section 67(3) states that no offer or invitation shall be treated as made to the public, by virtue of subsections (1) and (2), that is to any section of the public, if the offer or invitation is not being calculated to result, directly or indirectly, in the shares or debentures becoming available for subscription or purchase by persons other than those receiving the offer or invitation or otherwise as being a domestic concern of the persons making and receiving the offer or invitations. Section 67(3) is, therefore, an exception to Sections 67(1) and (2). If the circumstances mentioned in clauses (1) and (b) of Section 67(3) are satisfied, then the offer/ invitation would not be treated as being made to the public.

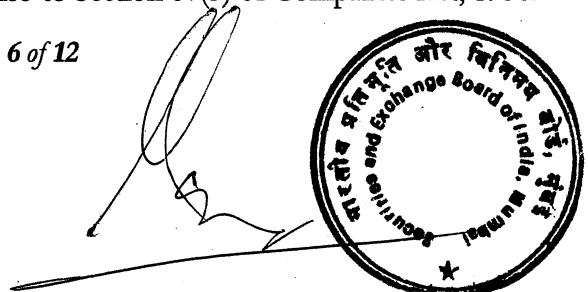


The first proviso to Section 67(3) was inserted by the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000 w.e.f. 13.12.2000, which clearly indicates, nothing contained in Sub-section (3) of Section 67 shall apply in a case where the offer or invitation to subscribe for shares or debentures is made to fifty persons or more. ...

Resultantly, after 13.12.2000, any offer of securities by a public company to fifty persons or more will be treated as a public issue under the Companies Act, even if it is of domestic concern or it is proved that the shares or debentures are not available for subscription or purchase by persons other than those receiving the offer or invitation. ...

I may, therefore, indicate, subject to what has been stated above, in India that any share or debenture issue beyond forty nine persons, would be a public issue attracting all the relevant provisions of the SEBI Act, regulations framed thereunder, the Companies Act, pertaining to the public issue. ..."

- iii. For ascertaining whether the Offer of RPS is in the nature of a public issue in accordance with Section 67 of the Companies Act, 1956, the number of subscribers is of utmost importance.
 - a. In the instant case, it is observed from copies of Form 2 filed by the company with RoC that FIAIL allotted RPS of face value Rs.100/- each to 127 investors and mobilised funds amounting to Rs.19,96,600/- from them during FY 2012-13. On 09/11/2012 alone, the company had allotted RPS to 113 persons which was way above the limit of forty-nine persons mentioned under provisions of Section 67(3) of the Companies Act, 1956. FIAIL has stated in the brochure cum application form that RPS have been allotted on a private placement basis. However, merely mentioning that an issue is on a private placement basis does not make it such. FIAIL failed to submit relevant information despite being granted opportunities to do so. Based on the facts available in this case, including in particular the number of persons to whom the RPS have been issued by FIAIL, the only conclusion can be that this issue was nothing but a public issue of securities in terms of provisions of Section 67(3) of the Companies Act, 1956.
- iv. FIAIL is not stated to be a non-banking financial company or a public financial institution within the meaning of Section 4A of the Companies Act and therefore, is not covered under the second proviso to Section 67(3) of Companies Act, 1956.



13. It is pertinent to note that by virtue of Section 55A of the Companies Act 1956, Section 67 of that Act, so far as it relates to issue and transfer of securities, shall also be administered by SEBI.

14. I note that –

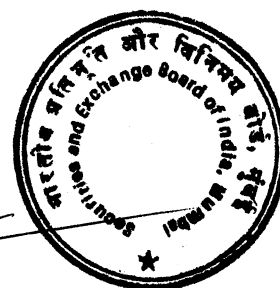
- i. From the abovementioned, it will follow that since the offer of RPS is a public issue of securities, such securities shall also have to be listed on a recognized stock exchange, as mandated under Section 73 of the Companies Act, 1956. In this regard, reference is made to Sections 73 of the Companies Act, 1956, of which sub-Sections (1), (2) and (3) are relevant for the instant case, which is reproduced as under :

"73(1) Every company intending to offer shares or debentures to the public for subscription by the issue of a prospectus shall, before such issue, make an application to one or more recognised stock exchanges for permission for the shares or debentures intending to be so offered to be dealt with in the stock exchange or each such stock exchange.

(1A) Where a prospectus, whether issued generally or not, states that an application under sub-section (1) has been made for permission for the shares or debentures offered thereby to be dealt in one or more recognised stock exchanges, such prospectus shall state the name of the stock exchange or, as the case may be, each such stock exchange, and any allotment made on an application in pursuance of such prospectus shall, whenever made, be void, if the permission has not been granted by the stock exchange or each such stock exchange, as the case may be, before the expiry of ten weeks from the date of the closing of the subscription lists :

Provided that where an appeal against the decision of any recognised stock exchange refusing permission for the shares or debentures to be dealt in on that stock exchange has been preferred under section 22 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 (42 of 1956), such allotment shall not be void until the dismissal of the appeal.

(2) Where the permission has not been applied under subsection (1) or such permission having been applied for, has not been granted as aforesaid, the company shall forthwith repay without interest all moneys received from applicants in pursuance of the prospectus, and, if any such money is not repaid within eight days after the company becomes liable to repay it, the company and every director of the company who is an officer in default shall, on and from the expiry of the eighth day, be jointly and severally liable to repay that money with interest at such rate, not less than four per cent and not more than fifteen per cent, as may be prescribed, having regard to the length of the period of delay in making the repayment of such money.



(3) All moneys received as aforesaid shall be kept in a separate bank account maintained with a Scheduled Bank until the permission has been granted, or where an appeal has been preferred against the refusal to grant such permission, until the disposal of the appeal, and the money standing in such separate account shall, where the permission has not been applied for as aforesaid or has not been granted, be repaid within the time and in the manner specified in sub-section (2); and if default is made in complying with this sub-section, the company, and every officer of the company who is in default, shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees."

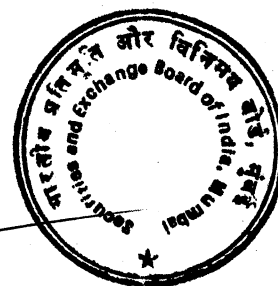
ii. In the *Sahara Case*, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India also examined Section 73 of the Companies Act, 1956, wherein it observed :

"Section 73(1) of the Act casts an obligation on every company intending to offer shares or debentures to the public to apply on a stock exchange for listing of its securities. Such companies have no option or choice but to list their securities on a recognized stock exchange, once they invite subscription from over forty nine investors from the public. If an unlisted company expresses its intention, by conduct or otherwise, to offer its securities to the public by the issue of a prospectus, the legal obligation to make an application on a recognized stock exchange for listing starts. Sub-section (1A) of Section 73 gives indication of what are the particulars to be stated in such a prospectus. The consequences of not applying for the permission under sub-section (1) of Section 73 or not granting of permission is clearly stipulated in sub-section (3) of Section 73. Obligation to refund the amount collected from the public with interest is also mandatory as per Section 73(2) of the Act.

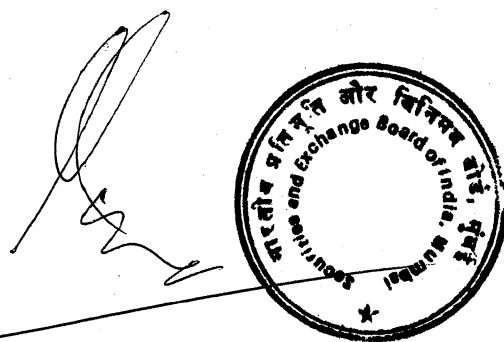
Listing is, therefore, a legal responsibility of the company which offers securities to the public, provided offers are made to more than 50 persons.

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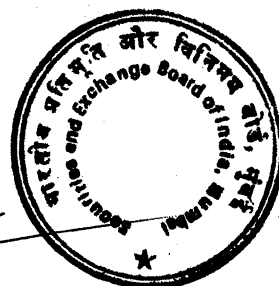
Section 73(2) says that every company and every director of the company who is an officer in default, shall be jointly and severally liable to repay that money with interest at such rate, not less than four per cent and not more than fifteen per cent, as may be prescribed. The scope of the above mentioned provisions came up for consideration before this Court in *Raymond Synthetics Ltd. & Ors. V. Union of India* (supra), wherein the Court held that in a case where the company has not applied for listing on a stock exchange, the consequences will flow from the company's disobedience of the law, the liability to pay interest arises as from the date of receipt of the amounts, for the company ought not to have received any such amount in response to the prospectus. I am, therefore, of the view that since *Saharas* had violated the listing provisions and collected huge amounts from the public in disobedience of law, SEBI is justified in directing refund of the amount with interest."



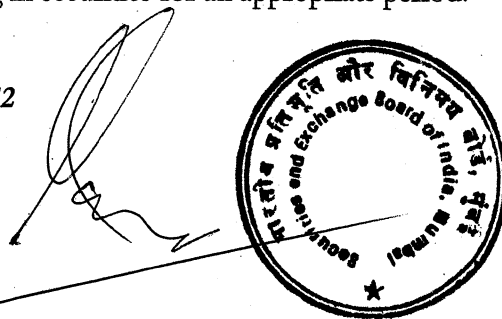
- iii. Having regard to the abovementioned observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, since the *Offer of RPS* is *prima facie* a public issue in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, the same will attract the requirement of compulsory listing before a recognized stock exchange in terms of Section 73(1) of the Companies Act, 1956 and also compliance with provisions of Sections 73(2) and 73(3) of that Act.
- iv. In the facts of the instant case, it *prima facie* appears that FIAIL has violated the provisions of Section 73 of the Companies Act, 1956, in respect of the *Offer of RPS*.
15. Under Section 2(36) read with Section 60 of the Companies Act, 1956, a company needs to register its prospectus with the RoC, before making a public offer or issuing the prospectus. As per the aforesaid Section 2(36), "*prospectus*" means any document described or issued as a prospectus and includes any notice, circular, advertisement or other document inviting deposits from the public or inviting offers from the public for the subscription or purchase of any shares in, or debentures of, a body corporate. As mentioned above, since the *offer of RPS* was made to fifty persons or more, it has to be construed as a public offer. Having made a public offer, FIAIL was required to register a prospectus with the RoC under Section 60 of the Companies Act, 1956. In the instant case, there is no evidence on record to indicate whether or not FIAIL registered a prospectus with the RoC. In view of the same, I find that *prima facie*, FIAIL has not complied with the provisions of Section 60 of Companies Act, 1956.
16. Under Section 56(1) of the Companies Act, 1956, every prospectus issued by or on behalf of a company, shall state the matters specified in Part I and set out the reports specified in Part II of Schedule II of that Act. Further, as per Section 56(3) of the Companies Act, 1956, no one shall issue any form of application for shares in or debentures of a company, unless the form is accompanied by abridged prospectus, contain disclosures as specified. Based on the material available on record, I find that FIAIL has not complied with the provisions of Section 56(1) and 56(3) of the Companies Act, 1956 and therefore *prima facie*, has violated the aforesaid provisions.



17. Upon a consideration of the aforementioned paragraphs, I am of the view that FIAIL is *prima facie* engaged in fund mobilising activity from the public, through the *offer of RPS* and as a result of the aforesaid activity has violated the aforementioned provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 (Section 56, Section 60 read with Section 2(36), Section 73).
18. SEBI has a statutory duty to protect the interests of investors in securities and promote the development of, and to regulate, the securities market. Section 11 of the SEBI Act has empowered it to take such measures as it thinks fit for fulfilling its legislative mandate. Further, as per the provisions of Section 55A of the Companies Act, 1956, the administrative authority on the subjects relating to public issue of securities is exclusively with SEBI. For this purpose, SEBI can exercise its jurisdiction under Sections 11(1), 11A, 11B and 11(4) of the SEBI Act read with Section 55A of the Companies Act, 1956. Steps therefore, have to be taken in the instant matter to ensure only legitimate fund raising activities are carried on by FIAIL and no investors are defrauded. This is especially so as FIAIL failed to submit the relevant details sought by SEBI despite being granted opportunities to do so. In light of the facts and circumstances of the case, there is no other alternative but to take recourse through an interim action against FIAIL, its Directors for preventing that company from further carrying on with its fund mobilising activity under the *offer of RPS*. Considering all these factors, it is felt that urgent intervention by SEBI is warranted as otherwise there could be every possibility of causing an irreparable damage to investors.
19. In view of the foregoing, I, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under Sections 11(1), 11(4), 11A and 11B of the SEBI Act, 1992, hereby issue the following directions –
- i. FIAIL shall forthwith cease to mobilize any fresh funds from investors through the *offer of RPS* or through the issuance of equity shares or any other securities, to the public and/or invite subscription, in any manner whatsoever, either directly or indirectly till further directions;
 - ii. FIAIL and its Directors, viz. Shri Ranjeet Kumar (DIN:03638923, PAN:BDMPK7608E), Shri Ram Kailash (DIN:03638921, PAN:AVNPK2820L) and Shri Rajoo (DIN:03638915) are prohibited from issuing prospectus or any offer document or issue advertisement for soliciting money from the public for the issue of securities, in any manner whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, till further orders;

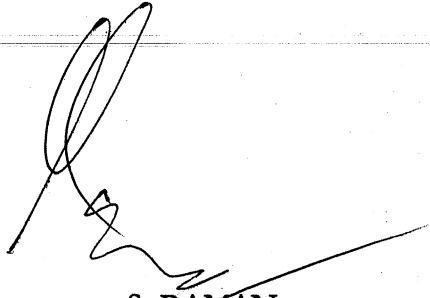


- iii. FIAIL, its abovementioned Directors are restrained from accessing the securities market and further prohibited from buying, selling or otherwise dealing in the securities market, either directly or indirectly, till further directions;
 - iv. FIAIL shall provide a full inventory of all its assets and properties;
 - v. FIAIL's abovementioned Directors shall provide a full inventory of all their assets and properties;
 - vi. FIAIL, its abovementioned Directors shall not dispose of any of the properties or alienate or encumber any of the assets owned/acquired by that company through the *offer of RPS*, without prior permission from SEBI;
 - vii. FIAIL, its abovementioned Directors shall not divert any funds raised from public at large through the *offer of RPS*, which are kept in bank account(s) and/or in the custody of FIAIL;
 - viii. FIAIL, its abovementioned Directors shall furnish complete and relevant information within 21 days from the date of receipt of this Order.
20. The above directions shall take effect immediately and shall be in force until further orders.
21. The *prima facie* observations contained in this Order are made on the basis of the material available on record i.e. information/documents obtained from RoC, Kanpur; information/documents obtained from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs' website i.e. 'MCA 21 Portal' ; complaints received and the documents enclosed there with. In this context, FIAIL and its abovementioned Directors are advised to show cause as to why suitable directions/prohibitions under Sections 11(1), 11(4), 11A and 11B of the SEBI Act including the following, should not be taken/imposed against them:
- i. Directing them jointly and severally to refund money collected through the Offer of Redeemable Preference Shares along with interest, if any, promised to investors therein;
 - ii. Directing them to not issue prospectus or any offer document or issue advertisement for soliciting money from the public for the issue of securities, in any manner whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, for an appropriate period;
 - iii. Directing them to refrain from accessing the securities market and prohibiting them from buying, selling or otherwise dealing in securities for an appropriate period.



22. FIAIL and its abovementioned Directors, may, within 21 days from the date of receipt of this Order, file their reply, if any, to this Order and may also indicate whether they desire to avail themselves an opportunity of personal hearing on a date and time to be fixed on a specific request made in that regard.
23. This interim order cum show cause notice is without prejudice to the right of SEBI to take any other action that may be initiated against FIAIL, its abovementioned Directors in accordance with law.

Place: Mumbai
Date: March 30, 2015


S. RAMAN
WHOLE TIME MEMBER
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA

