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**ADJUDICATING OFFICER**

SEBI/HO/EAD/EAD8/P/OW/2024/0000 2024 /1

**March 22, 2024**

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**Sub: Adjudication Proceedings in the matter of dealings in Illiquid Stock Options (ISO) at BSE**

**PART - A**

1. A Show Cause Notice (SCN) was earlier issued to you in the matter of dealings in Illiquid Stock Options (ISO) at BSE. The said Adjudication Proceedings are pending before me, to inquire into and adjudge the violations of provisions of Regulations 3(a),(b),(c),(d) and 4(1), 4(2)(a) of SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trading Practices relating to Securities Markets) Regulations, 2003 (PFUTP Regulations) and determine whether penalty under Section 15HA of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (SEBI Act) is liable to be imposed. Section 15HA of SEBI Act reads as under:

***"Penalty for fraudulent and unfair trade practices.***

***15HA. If any person indulges in fraudulent and unfair trade practices relating to securities, he shall be liable to a penalty which shall not be less than five lakh rupees but which may extend to twenty –five crore rupees or three times the amount of profits made out of such practices, whichever is higher."***

***(Emphasis Supplied)***

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**PART - B**

2. Pursuant to the Order dated May 13, 2022 passed by the Hon'ble Securities Appellate Tribunal, SEBI had framed the SEBI Settlement Scheme, 2022 which was open from August 22, 2022 to January 21, 2023. Pursuant to the closure of the SEBI Settlement Scheme, 2022, adjudication proceedings continued against the remaining entities. During the adjudication proceedings, significant number of the remaining entities, at the time of personal hearing, expressed their interest in availing of settlement. Accordingly, SEBI has decided to introduce another Settlement Scheme ("ISO Settlement Scheme, 2024") in terms of Section 15JB of the SEBI Act, 1992 read with Regulation 26 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations, 2018 in the matter of Illiquid Stock Options. The said scheme proposes payment of Settlement Amount as per the details given below:

| S No | Number of Contracts* | Settlement Amount (Rs.)                      |
|------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1    | 1-5                  | 1,20,000/-                                   |
| 2    | 6-50                 | 2,40,000/-                                   |
| 3    | 51 and above         | 6,00,000/- base amount + 12,000 per contract |

\* You may refer to the relevant Annexure/table of the SCN which contains a summary of the contracts you entered to determine the applicable slab for settlement.

3. The period of the ISO Settlement Scheme, 2024 will commence on March 11, 2024 and will close on May 10, 2024, so as to provide an opportunity for settlement to the entities who have executed reversal trades in the stock options segment of BSE during the period April 01, 2014 to September 30, 2015, against whom enforcement proceedings have been initiated and are pending. In case you wish to avail the benefit of the said Scheme, you may access the details of the said Scheme, which would be available on the website of SEBI i.e. [www.sebi.gov.in](http://www.sebi.gov.in), during the said period.

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4. Necessary application for settlement may be filed within the validity period of the scheme and payment of the settlement amount shall be made online. Additionally, for any clarification in regard to settlement scheme, you may refer to the FAQs at SEBI website or send email to [isoscheme2024@sebi.gov.in](mailto:isoscheme2024@sebi.gov.in)
5. In case you do not wish to avail of the facility under the ISO Settlement Scheme, 2024, the adjudication proceedings initiated vide SCN shall stand automatically revived and the proceedings shall continue, from the stage at which the said proceedings were kept pending. In such case, you are advised to file your reply within 14 days of receipt of this Intimation, if not filed earlier.

**SHASHI KUMAR VALSAKUMAR**  
**ADJUDICATING OFFICER**