

BEFORE THE ADJUDICATING OFFICER
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA
[ADJUDICATION ORDER NO.: Order/VV/NK/2023-24/28549]

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) RULES, 1995.

In respect of
SATISH AGRAWAL HUF
(PAN: AAJHS3607N)

In the matter of trading in Illiquid Stock Options on BSE

BACKGROUND OF THE CASE

1. Securities and Exchange Board of India (hereinafter referred to as “**SEBI**”) observed large scale reversal of trades in stock options segment of Bombay Stock Exchange (hereinafter referred to as “**BSE**”). SEBI observed that such large scale reversal of trades in stock options lead to creation of artificial volume at BSE. In view of the same, SEBI, conducted an investigation into the trading activity in illiquid Stock Options at BSE for the period between April 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015 (hereinafter referred to as, “**Investigation Period**”) after observing large scale reversal of trades in Stock Options segment of the BSE
2. Pursuant to a preliminary examination conducted in the Illiquid Stock Options matter an Interim order was passed by SEBI on August 20, 2015 against 59 entities which were confirmed vide Orders dated July 30, 2016 and August 22, 2016. Meanwhile, SEBI initiated a detailed investigation relating to trading in stock options segment of BSE which was completed in the year 2018. The investigation findings revealed that 14,720 entities

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were involved in executing non-genuine trades in BSE's stock options segment during the investigation period and also revealed that of all trades executed in the stock options segment of BSE during the Investigation Period, 81.38% of the trades, that is 2,91,643 trades, were trades which involved a reversal of buy and sell positions by the clients and counterparties in a contract. It was observed that, SATISH AGRAWAL HUF(herein after referred to as "**Noticee**") was one such various entities whose reversal trades involved squaring off transactions with significant difference in the sell value and buy value of the transactions. In view of the same, SEBI initiated adjudication proceedings against the Noticee for violation of the provisions of Regulations 3(a), (b), (c), (d), 4(1) and 4(2)(a) of SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices relating to Securities Market) Regulations, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as "PFUTP Regulations").

3. The proceedings initiated against the first set of 59 entities, vide the aforementioned Interim Order were disposed of vide final Order dated April 05, 2018, without any further directions, observing that the Adjudicating Officer shall continue the proceedings in accordance with the SEBI Act, 1992 (hereinafter referred to as the "SEBI Act") and SEBI (Procedure for Holding and Imposing Penalties by Adjudicating Officer) Rules, 1995 (hereinafter referred to as the "Adjudication Rules") and pass appropriate order on merits. It was also recorded therein that, SEBI has decided to take appropriate action against all 14,720 entities in phases.
4. In the meantime, the Hon'ble Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), vide its Order dated October 14, 2019, in the case of R. S. Ispat Ltd Vs SEBI, *inter alia* observed that "*SEBI may consider holding a Lok Adalat or adopting any other alternative dispute resolution process with regard to the Illiquid Stock Options*".

5. Accordingly, a Settlement Scheme was framed under the SEBI (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations, 2018, which provided a one-time opportunity for settlement of proceedings in the Illiquid Stock Options matter. The said scheme was kept open from August 01, 2020 till December 31, 2020. Finally, adjudication proceedings were initiated against those entities who did not avail the opportunity of settlement.
6. It was observed that 13,186 entities did not avail the opportunity of settlement and therefore, Adjudication proceedings were initiated against the entities in a phased manner. In order to duly expedite the Adjudication proceedings against the entities, SEBI had appointed additional Adjudicating officers to adjudicate against the said entities. However, owing to the huge number of alleged entities, the adjudication proceedings were being conducted in a phased manner that required adequate time to complete the proceedings against all entities. The Adjudicating officers had passed Orders with respect to certain entities in a phased manner.
7. It was observed, that some of the entities against whom Orders were passed in the adjudication proceedings appealed before the SAT. During the course of the hearing in a group of appeals, SAT, vide its Order dated May 13, 2022, inter alia observed that *“SEBI should reconsider and seriously give a thought in coming out with a fresh Scheme under Clause 26 of the Settlement Regulations, 2018. Such scheme can be a onetime scheme for this class of person. The terms of settlement should be attractive so that it could attract the noticees/entities to come forward and settle the matter which will ameliorate the harassment of penalty proceedings to the noticees and at the same time would help to clear the backlog of these pending matters before various AOs”*.

8. Accordingly, SEBI introduced a Settlement Scheme i.e. SEBI Settlement Scheme, 2022 (hereinafter referred to as "Scheme 2022") in terms of Regulation 26 of the SEBI (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations, 2018 (hereinafter referred to as "Settlement Regulations"). The Scheme provided a onetime opportunity to the entities against whom proceedings had been initiated and/or appeals against the said proceedings are pending before any forum or authority.
9. I note that SEBI framed the Scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Settlement Regulations and issued a Public Notice dated August 19, 2022 about the Scheme and the modalities for availing the benefit of the Scheme. The Notice was also made available on the website of the BSE. The Scheme was initially kept open for a period of three months commencing from August 22, 2022 to November 21, 2022 (both days inclusive). Considering the interest of a large number of entities to avail the Scheme, SEBI extended the period of the Scheme till January 21, 2023 vide public notice dated November 22, 2022. A total of 10,980 Noticees availed the benefit of the Scheme and remitted the specified settlement amount respectively. Accordingly, a settlement order was passed on March 08, 2023, settling the matter with respect to 10,980 Noticees.
10. I note that Noticee did not avail settlement under the Settlement Scheme in 2020 or 2022 and therefore Adjudication proceedings have been revived against the Noticee.

APPOINTMENT OF ADJUDICATING OFFICER

11. SEBI initiated adjudication proceedings and appointed the undersigned as Adjudicating Officer (hereinafter referred to as "AO") under section 15-I(1) of the SEBI Act read with rule 3 of the SEBI (Procedure for Holding Inquiry

and Imposing Penalties by Adjudicating Officer) Rules, 1995 (hereinafter be referred to as the “**Adjudication Rules**”) vide order dated June 21, 2021 to inquire into and adjudge under Section 15HA of the SEBI Act, the alleged violations of the aforesaid provisions of the PFUTP Regulations, 2003, by Noticee. The appointment of the AO was communicated vide communique dated July 27, 2021.

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE, REPLY AND HEARING

12. Show Cause Notice dated August 02, 2022 (hereinafter be referred to as, the “**SCN**”) was issued to Noticee under Rule 4 of the Adjudication Rules read with section 15-I of the SEBI Act, to show cause as to why an inquiry should not be held and penalty be not imposed against Noticee under Section 15HA of the SEBI Act for the alleged violations of Regulations 3(a), (b), (c), (d), 4(1), and 4(2)(a) of the PFUTP Regulations via digitally signed email, followed by Speed Post Acknowledgment Due (hereinafter referred to as “**SPAD**”), which was sent to the address of the Noticee available as per record and was duly delivered to Noticee’s address on August 22, 2022.

13. In the aforesaid SCN, it was alleged that Noticee, by indulging in execution of aforesaid non-genuine reversal trades, had violated Regulation 3(a), (b), (c), (d), 4(1), 4(2)(a) of PFUTP Regulations, which are reproduced as follows:

“3. Prohibition of certain dealings in securities

No person shall directly or indirectly—

(a) buy, sell or otherwise deal in securities in a fraudulent manner;

(b) use or employ, in connection with issue, purchase or sale of any security listed or proposed to be listed in a recognized stock exchange, any manipulative or deceptive device or contrivance in contravention of the provisions of the Act or the rules or the regulations made there under;

(c) employ any device, scheme or artifice to defraud in connection with dealing in or issue of securities which are listed or proposed to be listed on a recognized stock exchange;

(d) engage in any act, practice, course of business which operates or would operate as fraud or deceit upon any person in connection with any dealing in or issue of securities which are listed or proposed to be listed on a recognized stock exchange in contravention of the provisions of the Act or the rules and the regulations made there under.

4. Prohibition of manipulative, fraudulent and unfair trade practices

(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of regulation 3, no person shall indulge in a fraudulent or an unfair trade practice in securities.

(2) Dealing in securities shall be deemed to be a fraudulent or an unfair trade practice if it involves fraud and may include all or any of the following, namely: —(a) indulging in an act which creates false or misleading appearance of trading in the securities market”

14. The aforesaid SCN served to Noticee indicated not only the nature and details of the violation alleged to have been committed by Noticee but also intimated Noticee regarding the SEBI Settlement Scheme, 2022. However, it is observed from records that Noticee did not avail the SEBI Settlement Scheme. Noticee was advised to file a reply to the SCN within 30 days of the receipt of the SCN. It is noted from records that Noticee did not file any reply to the SCN.

15. In the interest of natural justice, vide hearing notice (“HN”) dated March 06, 2023 issued on Noticee through digitally signed email and SPAD , Noticee was granted an opportunity of personal hearing in the matter on March 21, 2023 through video conferencing on the Webex platform.

Hearing Noticee sent through SPAD returned undelivered. Subsequently, the said HN was served to the Noticee vide Newspaper publication on July 07, 2023, in Hindustan Times (English), Jaipur Edition, pratahkal (Hindi), Jaipur Edition. The said publications mentioned opportunity of personal hearing granted to Noticee on July 24, 2023. However, Noticee did not appeared for the hearing on July 24, 2023 nor has submitted reply to the SCN till date of this order.

16. I am of the view that the principles of natural justice have been adhered to, as the SCN and the Hearing Notice was duly served upon the Noticee, which is on record and sufficient opportunity was granted to Noticee to reply to the SCN and appear for the personal hearing. Considering the fact that the Noticee has neither filed any reply nor has availed the opportunity of personal hearing despite service of notices upon it, I am of the view that Noticee has nothing to submit and in terms of Rule 4(7) of the Adjudication Rules the matter is being proceeded ex-parte in its regard on the basis of material available on record. As the Noticee did not file any reply to the SCN, it can be presumed that Noticee has admitted the charges levelled against Noticee.

17. In this regard, it is pertinent to note that the Hon'ble Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) in the matter of Classic Credit Ltd. vs. SEBI (Appeal No. 68 of 2003 decided on December 08, 2006) has, inter alia, held that, *"...the appellants did not file any reply to the second show-cause notice. This being so, it has to be presumed that the charges alleged against them in the show cause notice were admitted by them"*.

18. Further, the Hon'ble SAT in the matter of **Sanjay Kumar Tayal & Others vs SEBI** (Appeal No. 68 of 2013 decided on February 11, 2014), has also, inter alia, held that: *"....appellants have neither filed reply to show cause notices issued to them nor availed opportunity of personal hearing offered*

to them in the adjudication proceedings and, therefore, appellants are presumed to have admitted charges leveled against them in the show cause notices...”

19. Additionally, the same position reiterated by the Hon’ble Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) in the matter of **Dave Harihar Kirtibhai vs SEBI** (Appeal No. 181 of 214 dated December 19, 2014), wherein it has been stated that:

“...further, it is being increasingly observed by the Tribunal that many persons/entities do not appear before SEBI (Respondent) to submit reply to SCN or, even worse, do not accept notices/letters of Respondent and when orders are passed ex-parte by Respondent, appear before Tribunal in appeal and claim non-receipt of notice and do not appear and/or submit reply to SCN but claim violation of principles of natural justice due to not being provided opportunity to reply to SCN or not provided personal hearing. This leads to unnecessary and avoidable loss of time and resources on part of all concerned and should be eschewed, to say the least. Hence, this case is being decided on basis of material before this Tribunal...”

20. In view of the observations made by the Hon’ble SAT, I find no reason to take a different view and accordingly, I deem it appropriate to proceed against Noticee ex parte, based on the material available on record as laid down by SAT in its order dated May 12, 2017 in the matter of Shri. B.Ramalinga Raju vs. SEBI (Appeal no. 286 of 2014), *“even though the Noticees remained ex-parte, I find it relevant that I should be guided by the documents available on record”*. Thus, I hereby proceed with the matter, based on the material available on record and in absence of response of Noticee, presume that the allegations/ charges have been admitted by Noticee.

CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES AND FINDINGS

21. The issues arising for consideration in the instant proceedings are: -
- I. Whether Noticee has violated the provisions of regulations 3(a), (b), (c), (d), 4(1), 4(2)(a) of the PFUTP Regulations, 2003?
 - II. If yes, whether Noticee is liable for imposition of monetary penalty under Section 15HA of SEBI Act?
 - III. If yes, what would be the monetary penalty that can be imposed upon Noticee taking into consideration the factors stipulated in Section 15J of the SEBI Act?

ISSUE- I: Whether Noticee has violated the provisions of regulations 3(a), (b), (c), (d), 4(1), 4(2)(a) of the PFUTP Regulations, 2003?

22. It has been alleged in the SCN that Noticee had executed reversal trades which involved squaring off transactions with significant difference in the sell value and buy value in the illiquid Stock Options segment at Bombay Stock exchange. It has been alleged that the aforesaid reversal trades resulted into generation of artificial volumes in the illiquid stock options contracts traded by Noticee.

23. In this regard, I note that the allegation that Noticee carried out reversal trades is directly supported by evidence from the BSE trade log records, which were provided to Noticee along with the SCN. I note from the BSE trade log that on 02/06/2015, 02/07/2015, 07/07/2015, 09/06/2015, 09/07/2015, 25/05/2015, 26/05/2015 and 28/05/2015, Noticee is seen to have indulged in total 124 reversal trades in 61 unique contracts as illustrated below:

TRADE_DATE	clnt_name	cp_name	TRADE_TIME	TRADE_RATE	TRADED_QTY	SCRIPNAME
25/05/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:50:13.8300	26	3000	HERO15JUN2280.00PE

	PVT. LTD		51			
25/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:50:18.829903	16	3000	HERO15JUN2280.00PE
25/05/2015	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	12:56:02.431228	45	10000	LUPL15JUL1590.00PE
25/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	12:56:07.276321	16	10000	LUPL15JUL1590.00PE
25/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:51:10.424099	63	4000	HERO15JUL2750.00CE
25/05/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:51:05.330311	118	4000	HERO15JUL2750.00CE
25/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:55:05.628426	14	5000	WOCK15JUN1770.00CE
25/05/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:54:59.675298	30	5000	WOCK15JUN1770.00CE
25/05/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:52:54.768262	72	5000	WOCK15JUN1620.00CE
25/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:53:00.580902	26	5000	WOCK15JUN1620.00CE
25/05/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:53:40.675032	26	5000	WOCK15JUN1140.00PE
25/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:53:45.581113	16	5000	WOCK15JUN1140.00PE
25/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:49:35.564421	14	3000	HERO15JUL2220.00PE
25/05/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:49:30.751630	42	3000	HERO15JUL2220.00PE
26/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	13:24:13.673879	14	10000	HDFC15JUL1380.00CE
26/05/2015	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	13:24:10.048756	29	10000	HDFC15JUL1380.00CE
26/05/2015	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	13:14:36.638813	12	10000	STAC15JUL920.00PE
26/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	13:14:42.029653	4	10000	STAC15JUL920.00PE
26/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	13:19:41.625316	21	10000	STAC15JUL1470.00CE

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26/05/2015	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	13:19:35.125424	34	10000	STAC15JUL1470.00CE
26/05/2015	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	13:25:02.705362	27	10000	LUPL15JUL1530.00PE
26/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	13:25:06.462979	12	10000	LUPL15JUL1530.00PE
26/05/2015	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	13:16:01.858116	14	10000	STAC15JUN990.00PE
26/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	13:16:09.858211	7	10000	STAC15JUN990.00PE
26/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	13:22:23.735778	8	10000	HDFC15JUL1080.00PE
26/05/2015	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	13:22:18.735809	18	10000	HDFC15JUL1080.00PE
26/05/2015	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	13:13:36.919684	45	4000	DRRL15JUL3150.00PE
26/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	13:13:41.138586	16	4000	DRRL15JUL3150.00PE
28/05/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	13:20:13.622007	17	12000	JUST15JUL1410.00CE
28/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	13:20:17.231576	9	12000	JUST15JUL1410.00CE
28/05/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	13:17:39.418058	14	12000	STAC15JUL880.00PE
28/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	13:17:43.949269	5	12000	STAC15JUL880.00PE
28/05/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:23:51.003185	95	6000	BAJT15JUL2430.00CE
28/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	14:23:54.300284	54	6000	BAJT15JUL2430.00CE
28/05/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	13:14:26.401654	69	4000	MARU15JUL3350.00PE
28/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	13:15:10.104943	21	4000	MARU15JUL3350.00PE
28/05/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	13:23:51.529668	8	10000	ABNV15JUL1470.00PE
28/05/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH	13:23:4	18	10000	ABNV15JUL

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2015		AGRAWAL HUF	8.4356 61			1470.00PE
28/05/ 2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:20:2 0.3300 62	22	6000	MIND15JUL 1260.00PE
28/05/ 2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	14:20:2 3.8299 99	12	6000	MIND15JUL 1260.00PE
28/05/ 2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	14:21:3 8.6428 97	6	7000	BAJT15JUL 1860.00PE
28/05/ 2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:21:3 4.3461 32	25	7000	BAJT15JUL 1860.00PE
28/05/ 2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	13:22:4 6.8260 40	26	8000	ACCL15JUL 1320.00PE
28/05/ 2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	13:22:5 0.5291 78	14	8000	ACCL15JUL 1320.00PE
28/05/ 2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	13:16:2 9.8084 29	14	10000	JUST15JUL 930.00PE
28/05/ 2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	13:16:3 4.4176 36	5	10000	JUST15JUL 930.00PE
02/06/ 2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	15:03:3 6.1947 17	8	12000	TAMO15JU L430.00PE
02/06/ 2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	15:03:3 8.9915 85	4	12000	TAMO15JU L430.00PE
02/06/ 2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	15:09:2 4.8216 71	21	7000	STAC15AU G990.00PE
02/06/ 2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	15:09:2 1.6338 93	34	7000	STAC15AU G990.00PE
02/06/ 2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	15:05:5 6.3047 45	17	10000	AXIS15AUG 640.00CE
02/06/ 2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	15:05:5 9.8049 59	9	10000	AXIS15AUG 640.00CE
02/06/ 2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	15:13:1 7.0105 50	4	30000	IDFC15AUG 175.00CE
02/06/ 2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	15:13:2 2.7138 39	2.1	30000	IDFC15AUG 175.00CE
02/06/ 2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	15:07:0 2.5238 54	11	12000	AXIS15JUL 620.00CE
02/06/ 2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	15:06:5 9.6175	17	12000	AXIS15JUL 620.00CE

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			55			
02/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	15:04:22.897945	5	12000	TAMO15JUL540.00CE
02/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	15:04:19.710301	8	12000	TAMO15JUL540.00CE
02/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	15:00:22.818374	9	12000	CIPL15JUL560.00PE
02/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	15:00:26.115137	4	12000	CIPL15JUL560.00PE
02/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	15:08:39.930592	24	6000	LNTL15JUL1530.00PE
02/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	15:08:42.930612	15	6000	LNTL15JUL1530.00PE
02/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	15:18:05.496724	18	11000	TECM15AUG480.00PE
02/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	15:17:57.106245	27	11000	TECM15AUG480.00PE
02/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	14:59:49.911779	7	10000	CIPL15AUG580.00PE
02/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:59:46.615068	12	10000	CIPL15AUG580.00PE
02/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	15:02:00.693871	14	8000	RELI15AUG840.00PE
02/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	15:01:56.693918	25	8000	RELI15AUG840.00PE
02/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	15:12:34.603934	27	6000	HDBK15AUG960.00PE
02/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	15:12:37.807256	19	6000	HDBK15AUG960.00PE
02/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	15:07:59.930303	39	5000	LNTL15AUG1560.00PE
02/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	15:08:03.524182	21	5000	LNTL15AUG1560.00PE
02/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	15:15:02.807995	3.75	30000	IDEA15AUG155.00PE
02/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	15:15:10.917540	2.1	30000	IDEA15AUG155.00PE

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02/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	15:10:06.993802	8	20000	ICIC15AUG360.00CE
02/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	15:10:10.493697	4	20000	ICIC15AUG360.00CE
09/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	12:14:05.617722	18	14000	CENT15JUL560.00PEW1
09/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	12:14:09.711169	11	14000	CENT15JUL560.00PEW1
09/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	12:12:30.304549	12.25	10000	CENT15AUG540.00PE
09/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	12:12:25.804648	29	10000	CENT15AUG540.00PE
09/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	12:13:38.117359	7	12000	CENT15JUL540.00PEW2
09/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	12:13:35.117314	15	12000	CENT15JUL540.00PEW2
09/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	12:14:47.117678	4	14000	CENT15JUL740.00CE
09/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	12:14:44.211403	13	14000	CENT15JUL740.00CE
09/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	12:16:31.821614	3	20000	CESC15JUL460.00PE
09/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	12:16:28.227830	8	20000	CESC15JUL460.00PE
09/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	12:13:03.617095	14	12000	CENT15AUG720.00CE
09/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	12:13:00.211165	27	12000	CENT15AUG720.00CE
09/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	12:15:23.414863	18	15000	CIPL15AUG660.00CE
09/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	12:15:20.024285	27	15000	CIPL15AUG660.00CE
09/06/2015	J.B.OVERSEAS	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	12:15:55.915098	11	15000	CESC15AUG460.00PE
09/06/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	J.B.OVERSEAS	12:15:58.914835	4	15000	CESC15AUG460.00PE
02/07/2015	SATISH	SURUCHI	14:36:25.25	5.25	18000	STAC15SE

Adjudication Order in respect of SATISH AGRAWAL HUF in the matter of dealings in Illiquid Stock Options on BSE

2015	AGRAWAL HUF	FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	2.400184			P1410.00CE
02/07/2015	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:36:27.400419	14	18000	STAC15SE P1410.00CE
02/07/2015	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:37:46.916428	27	26000	BATA15SE P1170.00CE
02/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	14:37:42.916615	9.15	26000	BATA15SE P1170.00CE
02/07/2015	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:40:21.042517	11	15000	JUST15AU G1080.00PE
02/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	14:40:09.339008	2.25	15000	JUST15AU G1080.00PE
02/07/2015	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:39:19.135933	1.85	50000	FEDB15JUL 125.00PE
02/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	14:39:26.245059	0.55	50000	FEDB15JUL 125.00PE
02/07/2015	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:38:40.229290	1.95	90000	FEDB15AU G130.00PE
02/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED	14:38:35.541872	0.35	90000	FEDB15AU G130.00PE
07/07/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:28:16.652302	6	53000	IOCL15JUL 440.00CE
07/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:28:12.964542	1.35	53000	IOCL15JUL 440.00CE
07/07/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:26:05.151435	2.9	56000	GAIL15JUL 420.00CE
07/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:26:00.714017	0.55	56000	GAIL15JUL 420.00CE
07/07/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:25:13.995100	14	23000	SIEM15AU G1290.00PE
07/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:25:09.401129	4.65	23000	SIEM15AU G1290.00PE
07/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:29:07.558848	2.55	20000	IOCL15JUL 400.00PE
07/07/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:29:03.355774	6	20000	IOCL15JUL 400.00PE
07/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS	14:26:50.6206	5.25	12000	DRRL15JUL 3500.00PE

Adjudication Order in respect of SATISH AGRAWAL HUF in the matter of dealings in Illiquid Stock Options on BSE

		PVT. LTD	54			
07/07/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:26:54.807795	20	12000	DRRL15JUL 3500.00PE
07/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:29:45.855792	7.05	20000	IOCL15AUG 400.00PE
07/07/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:29:49.762177	12	20000	IOCL15AUG 400.00PE
09/07/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:15:30.426058	5.85	52000	ONGC15SE P340.00CE
09/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:15:23.019665	2.05	52000	ONGC15SE P340.00CE
09/07/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:13:47.612816	21	14000	ABNV15SE P1650.00PE
09/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:13:41.519040	7.25	14000	ABNV15SE P1650.00PE
09/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:14:51.613384	1.05	49000	ONGC15AU G290.00PE W1
09/07/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:14:56.019635	3.95	49000	ONGC15AU G290.00PE W1
09/07/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:16:42.332611	4	63000	IOCL15JUL 400.00PE
09/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:16:38.238764	1.05	63000	IOCL15JUL 400.00PE
09/07/2015	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	14:14:23.519391	6.2	54000	ONGC15JU L300.00PE
09/07/2015	SATISH AGRAWAL HUF	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD	14:14:19.613281	1.25	54000	ONGC15JU L300.00PE

24. Summary of dealings of the Noticee in the said 61 Stock Options contracts, in which it executed non-genuine trades during the investigation period, are as follows:

CONTRACT NAME	Average Buy rate	Buy Quantity	Average Sell rate	Sell Quantity	Number of non genuine trades executed by	Total number of trades executed in the contra	Artificial volume generated by Noticee in the Contract
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					Notice e in the Contra ct	ct	t
ABNV15JUL1470.00P E	8	10000	18	10000	2	18	20000
ABNV15SEP1650.00 PE	7.25	14000	21	14000	2	10	28000
ACCL15JUL1320.00P E	14	8000	26	8000	2	2	16000
AXIS15AUG640.00C E	9	10000	17	10000	2	14	20000
AXIS15JUL620.00CE	11	12000	17	12000	2	4	24000
BAJT15JUL1860.00P E	6	7000	25	7000	2	10	14000
BAJT15JUL2430.00C E	54	6000	95	6000	2	8	12000
BATA15SEP1170.00 CE	9.15	26000	27	26000	2	4	52000
CENT15AUG540.00P E	12.25	10000	29	10000	2	8	20000
CENT15AUG720.00C E	14	12000	27	12000	2	6	24000
CENT15JUL540.00P EW2	7	12000	15	12000	2	2	24000
CENT15JUL560.00P EW1	11	14000	18	14000	2	2	28000
CENT15JUL740.00C E	4	14000	13	14000	2	10	28000
CESC15AUG460.00P E	4	15000	11	15000	2	12	30000
CESC15JUL460.00P E	3	20000	8	20000	2	10	40000
CIPL15AUG580.00PE	7	10000	12	10000	2	10	20000
CIPL15AUG660.00C E	18	15000	27	15000	2	2	30000
CIPL15JUL560.00PE	4	12000	9	12000	2	8	24000
DRRL15JUL3150.00P E	16	4000	45	4000	2	8	8000
DRRL15JUL3500.00P E	5.25	12000	20	12000	2	4	24000
FEDB15AUG130.00P E	0.35	90000	1.95	90000	2	2	180000
FEDB15JUL125.00P E	0.55	50000	1.85	50000	2	2	100000
GAIL15JUL420.00CE	0.55	56000	2.9	56000	2	4	112000
HDBK15AUG960.00P E	19	6000	27	6000	2	6	12000
HDFC15JUL1080.00 PE	8	10000	18	10000	2	8	20000
HDFC15JUL1380.00 CE	14	10000	29	10000	2	2	20000
HERO15JUL2220.00	14	3000	42	3000	2	4	6000

PE							
HERO15JUL2750.00 CE	63	4000	118	4000	2	2211	8000
HERO15JUN2280.00 PE	16	3000	26	3000	2	2	6000
ICIC15AUG360.00CE	4	20000	8	20000	2	2	40000
IDEA15AUG155.00P E	2.1	30000	3.75	30000	2	2	60000
IDFC15AUG175.00C E	2.1	30000	4	30000	2	2	60000
IOCL15AUG400.00P E	7.05	20000	12	20000	2	2	40000
IOCL15JUL400.00PE	1.41	83000	4.48	83000	4	4	166000
IOCL15JUL440.00CE	1.35	53000	6	53000	2	4	106000
JUST15AUG1080.00 PE	2.25	15000	11	15000	2	6	30000
JUST15JUL1410.00C E	9	12000	17	12000	2	2	24000
JUST15JUL930.00PE	5	10000	14	10000	2	2	20000
LNTL15AUG1560.00 PE	21	5000	39	5000	2	10	10000
LNTL15JUL1530.00P E	15	6000	24	6000	2	6	12000
LUPL15JUL1530.00P E	12	10000	27	10000	2	4	20000
LUPL15JUL1590.00P E	16	10000	45	10000	2	2	20000
MARU15JUL3350.00 PE	21	4000	69	4000	2	14	8000
MIND15JUL1260.00P E	12	6000	22	6000	2	2	12000
ONGC15AUG290.00 PEW1	1.05	49000	3.95	49000	2	2	98000
ONGC15JUL300.00P E	1.25	54000	6.2	54000	2	2	108000
ONGC15SEP340.00C E	2.05	52000	5.85	52000	2	2	104000
RELI15AUG840.00PE	14	8000	25	8000	2	6	16000
SIEM15AUG1290.00 PE	4.65	23000	14	23000	2	2	46000
STAC15AUG990.00P E	21	7000	34	7000	2	4	14000
STAC15JUL1470.00C E	21	10000	34	10000	2	4	20000
STAC15JUL880.00P E	5	12000	14	12000	2	6	24000
STAC15JUL920.00P E	4	10000	12	10000	2	14	20000
STAC15JUN990.00P E	7	10000	14	10000	2	10	20000
STAC15SEP1410.00 CE	5.25	18000	14	18000	2	2	36000

TAMO15JUL430.00PE	4	12000	8	12000	2	4	24000
TAMO15JUL540.00CE	5	12000	8	12000	2	2	24000
TECM15AUG480.00PE	18	11000	27	11000	2	10	22000
WOCK15JUN1140.00PE	16	5000	26	5000	2	4	10000
WOCK15JUN1620.00CE	26	5000	72	5000	2	8	10000
WOCK15JUN1770.00CE	14	5000	30	5000	2	2	10000

25. It is seen that in Stock option contract “ACCL15JUL1320.00PE” on 28/05/2015, at 13:22:46 hrs Noticee executed 1 sell trade for total 8000 units at the sell rate of Rs 26 per unit with counterparty viz. J.B.OVERSEAS. Thereafter, within 5 seconds at 13:22:50hrs, Noticee executed 1 buy trade for 8000 units at the buy rate of Rs. 14 per unit, in the said contract with the same counterparty. The aforesaid reversal trades generated volume to the extent of 16000 units in the said contract, which was 100% of the total market volume in the said contract during the IP.

26. I note that buy order and sell order for 16000units (8000 units each) in the ACCL15JUL1320.00PE contract were placed within time gap in the range of around 4 seconds from each other by Noticee and counterparty. I also note that there is wide variation in the sell and buy prices of the reversal trades, without there being any significant movement in the price of the underlying scrip in the cash segment

27. Similarly, on 09/06/2015, in CIPL15AUG660.00CE contract, Noticee sold 15000 units at 12:15:20 hrs to J.B.OVERSEAS at the sell rate of Rs. 27 per unit in 1 sell trade and then in the same scrip Noticee, executed 1 buy trade of 15000 units within 3 seconds at 12:15:23 hrs with same counterparty at Rs. 18 per unit. The aforesaid quantities traded by

Noticee made up 100% of the total market volume in the said contract during the IP.

28. I note from the trade log that reversal of trades has been executed by Noticee in other 59 contracts in similar manner. I also note that, Noticee carried out 124 reversal trades in 61 contracts with only 3 entities namely J.B.OVERSEAS, SURUCHI FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED and XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PVT. LTD
29. I note from the trade log that there was minimal trading activity in the aforesaid stock options contracts traded by Noticee. Therefore, I note from the number of trades and trading volume in the aforesaid stock option contracts that these contracts were illiquid in nature.
30. I note that, the price of a particular option contract is known as the option premium. In the instant matter, there was a wide variation in the buy/sell price for without any corresponding change in the price of the scrip in the cash segment. Therefore, for a given strike price, the option premium could not have varied widely within such a short period of time in the absence of significant movement in the price of the underlying scrip. Due to the fact that there was no commercial basis as to why, within a short span of time from each other, Noticee reversed the position with its counterparties with significant price difference, in the absence of significant movement in the price of the underlying scrip, I am of the view that the transactions executed by Noticee in the aforesaid contracts were non-genuine. Since these trades were done in illiquid option contracts, there was minimal trading in the stock options contracts traded by Noticee and hence, there was no price discovery w.r.t. the said contracts in the strictest terms. I note that the impugned reversal trades, which were carried out with prior meeting of minds as inferred from the case facts, affected the price discovery and execution of trades as per market

mechanism on the stock options segment of BSE. Furthermore, the exactness of the quantity that got reversed between the two parties on a single day, the proximity in the time of the reversal of trades and above all the absence of rationale to justify the variation in the sell and buy price, certainly shows that these are non- genuine trades.

31. In this context, it is relevant to quote the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of ***Rakhi Trading (SEBI Vs. Rakhi Trading-CANo.1969/2011, Order dated February 8, 2018)***

“Fairness, integrity and transparency are the hallmarks of the stock market in India”. (Paragraph No. 1 of the part of the judgement authored by His Lordship Mr. Justice Kurian Joseph).

“... Nobody intentionally trades for loss. An intentional trading for loss per se, is not a genuine dealing in securities. The platform of the stock exchange has been used for a nongenuine trade. Trading is always with the aim to make profits. But if one party consistently make loss and that too in pre-planned and rapid reverse trades, it is not genuine; it is an unfair trade practice.” (Paragraph No. 35 of the part of the judgement authored by His Lordship Mr. Justice Kurian Joseph).

Their Lordships have considered similar transactions in the same segment, *“The repeated reversals and predetermined arrangement to book profits and losses respectively, made it clear that the parties were not trading in the normal sense and ordinary course. Resultantly, there has clearly been a restriction on the free and fair operation of market forces in the instant case.”* (Paragraph No. 38 authored by His Lordship Mr. Justice Kurian Joseph)

“The stock market is not a platform for any fraudulent or unfair trade practice. The field is open to all the investors. By synchronization and rapid reverse trade, as has been carried out by the traders in the instant case, the price discovery system itself is affected. Except the parties who have pre-fixed the price, nobody is in the position to participate in the trade. It

also has an adverse impact on the fairness, integrity and transparency of the stock market.” (Paragraph No. 41 of the part of the judgement authored by His Lordship Mr. Justice Kurian Joseph).

“The smooth operation of the securities market and its healthy growth and development depends upon large extent on the quality and integrity of the market. Unfair trade practices affect the integrity and efficiency of the securities market and the confidence of the investors. Prevention of market abuse and preservation of market integrity are the hallmark of securities law ...” (Paragraph No.38 of the part of the judgment authored by Her Ladyship Ms. Justice R. Bhanumathi). For this, Hon’ble Judge also relied on the apex court observations in N.Narayanan Vs. Adjudicating Officer, Securities and Exchange Board of India(2013) 12 SCC 152 wherein it was inter alia observed: “Market abuse” impairs economic growth and erodes investor’s confidence.

“Where certain unscrupulous elements are trying to manipulate the market to serve their own interest, it becomes imperative on the part of SEBI to intervene and to curb further mischief and to take necessary action to maintain public confidence in the integrity of the securities market...” (Paragraph No.42 of the part of the judgment authored by Her Ladyship Ms. Justice R. Bhanumathi)

32. Therefore, placing reliance upon the aforesaid judgement, I find that the wide variation in option premium of the said contracts in the trades executed by Noticee, without any significant movement in the price of the underlying scrip, within such a short span of time, is a clear indication that there was prior meeting of minds between the Noticee and the counterparties while executing such trades. I note that since securities were illiquid, the fact that the transactions in a particular contract were reversed within a short period of time with the same counterparties indicates a prior meeting of minds with a view to execute the reversal trades at a pre-determined price. Thus, it is observed that Noticee had

indulged in reversal trades with its counterparties in the stock options segment of BSE and the same were non-genuine trades, and being non-genuine, Noticee's trades created misleading appearance of trading by generating artificial trading volumes in respective contracts.

33. I further note that it is not mere coincidence that, Noticee could match its trades with the same counterparty with whom Noticee had undertaken first leg of the respective trades. The fact that the transactions in a particular contract were reversed with the same counterparty for the same quantity of units, indicates a prior meeting of minds with a view to execute the reversal trades at a pre-determined price. This is the outcome of meeting of minds elsewhere and it was a deliberate attempt to deal in such a manner. I note in matters dealing with violation of PFUTP Regulations, 2003, the reason as regards execution of non-genuine trades might not be immediately forthcoming. However, the correct test instead, is one of preponderance of probabilities. Here I would like to rely on the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in SEBI v Kishore R Ajmera (AIR 2016 SC 1079) decided on February 23, 2016, wherein it was held that- *"...According to us, knowledge of who the 2nd party / client or the broker is, is not relevant at all. While the screen based trading system keeps the identity of the parties anonymous it will be too naïve to rest the final conclusions on the said basis which overlooks a meeting of minds elsewhere. Direct proof of such meeting of minds elsewhere would rarely be forthcoming...in the absence of direct proof of meeting of minds elsewhere in synchronized transactions, the test should be one of preponderance of probabilities as far as adjudication of civil liability arising out of the violation of the Act or provision of the Regulations is concerned. The conclusion has to be gathered from various circumstances like that volume of the trade effected; the period of persistence in trading in the particular scrip; the particulars of the buy and sell orders, namely, the*

volume thereof; the proximity of time between the two and such other relevant factors. The illustrations are not exhaustive...”.

34. The Hon'ble Supreme Court further held in the same matter that – *“It is a fundamental principle of law that proof of an allegation levelled against a person may be in the form of direct substantive evidence or, as in many cases, such proof may have to be inferred by a logical process of reasoning from the totality of the attending facts and circumstances surrounding the allegations/charges made and levelled. While direct evidence is a more certain basis to come to a conclusion, yet, in the absence thereof, the Courts cannot be helpless. It is the judicial duty to take note of the immediate and proximate facts and circumstances surrounding the events on which the charges/allegations are founded and to reach what would appear to the Court to be a reasonable conclusion therefrom. The test would always be that what inferential process that a reasonable/prudent man would adopt to arrive at a conclusion.”*
35. The observations made in the aforesaid judgments of Hon'ble Supreme Court apply with full force to the facts and circumstances of the present case. Therefore, applying the ratio of the above judgments, I am convinced that the execution of trades by Noticee in the illiquid options segment with such precision in terms of order placement, time, price, quantity etc. and also the fact that the transactions were reversed with the same counterparty clearly indicates a prior meeting of minds with a view to execute the reversal trades at a pre- determined price. The only reason for the wide variation in prices of the same contract, within short span of time was a clear indication that there was pre- determination in the prices by both the counterparty when executing the trades.
36. I further note that the impugned reversal trades, which were carried out with prior meeting of minds as inferred from the case facts, affected the

price discovery and execution of trades as per market mechanism on the stock options segment of BSE. In this regard, I further note the following from the judgement of the Hon'ble SC in the matter of SEBI vs Rakhi Trading Pvt Ltd (*Supra*):

“According to SAT, only if there is market impact on account of sham transactions, could there be violation of the PFUTP Regulations. We find it extremely difficult to agree with the proposition. As already noted above, SAT has missed the crucial factors affecting the market integrity, which may be direct or indirect. The stock market is not a platform for any fraudulent or unfair trade practice. The field is open to all the investors. By synchronization and rapid reverse trade, as has been carried out by the traders in the instant case, the price discovery system itself is affected. Except the parties who have pre-fixed the price nobody is in the position to participate in the trade. It also has an adverse impact on the fairness, integrity and transparency of the stock market.”

37. Finally, to answer the question as to whether these trades fall within the ambit of Regulations 3(a), (b), (c), (d), 4(1) and 4(2)(a) of the PFUTP Regulations, I would like to rely on the following extract of the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Rakhi Trading:

“39. Regulation 2(1)(c) defines fraud. Under Regulation 2(1)(c)(2) a suggestion as to a fact which is not true while he does not believe it to be true is fraud. Under Regulation 2(1)(c)(7), a deceptive behavior of one depriving another of informed consent or full participation is fraud. And under Regulation 2(1)(c)(8), a false statement without any reasonable ground for believing it to be true is also fraud. In synchronized and reverse dealing in securities, with predetermined arrangement to book loss or gain between prearranged parties, all these vices are attracted.

40. Regulation 3(a) expressly prohibits buying, selling or otherwise dealing in securities in a fraudulent manner. Under Regulation 4(2) dealing in securities shall be deemed to be fraudulent if the trader indulges in an act which creates a false or misleading appearance of trading in the securities market. It is a deeming provision. Such trading also involves an act amounting to manipulation of the price of the security in the sense that the price has been artificially and apparently prefixed. The price does not at all reflect the value of the underlying asset. It is also a transaction in securities entered into without any intention of performing it and without any intention of effecting a change of ownership of such securities, ownership being understood in the limited sense of the rights of the contract.” (His Lordship Mr.Justice Kurian Joseph’s findings in paragraph Nos. 39&40).

38. The Hon’ble Appellate Tribunal has summarized the circumstances identified by the Apex court in **Rakhi Trading** Judgment in the case of **Global Earth Properties and Developers Pvt. Ltd. Vs Securities and Exchange Board of India (Appeal No.212 of 2020 decided on September 14, 2020)**. In para 14 of the said order, the Hon’ble SAT enlisted the following circumstances:

“14 d. An intentional trading for loss per se, is not a genuine dealing in securities. Trading is always with the aim to make profits. But if one party consistently makes loss and that too in preplanned and rapid reverse trades, it is not genuine and the same is an unfair trade practice. e. In synchronised and reverse trades, there is no genuine change of rights in the contract.”

39. Further in paragraph No. 20 of the said order in **Global Earth (supra)**, the Hon’ble Tribunal held as below: *“20. From the aforesaid cumulative analysis of the reversed transactions with the counter party, quantity, time and significant variation of the price clearly indicates that the trades were*

non-genuine and had only misleading appearance of trading in the securities market without intending to transfer the beneficial ownership. One finds it to be naïve to presume that the perception of the two counter parties to a trade changed within few seconds/minutes and positions were interchanged and the contracts were changed where one party made profit and the other party ended up making losses every time without prior meeting of mind. It is not a mere coincidence that the Appellants could match the trades with the counter party with whom he had undertaken the first leg of respective trade. In our opinion, the trades were non-genuine trades and even though direct evidence is not available in the instant case but in the peculiar facts and circumstances of the present case there is an irresistible inference that can be drawn that there was meeting of minds between the Appellants and the counter parties, and collusion with a view to trade at a predetermined price.”

40. I also find it relevant to note here that in the matter of Securities and Exchange Board of India vs. Rakhi Trading Private Limited (Civil Appeal Nos. 1969, 3174-3177 and 3180 of 2011 decided on February 08, 2018), which was a similar case involving execution of reversal trades in index options, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that “... *the traders thus having engaged in a fraudulent and unfair trade practice while dealing in securities, are hence liable to be proceeded against for violation of Regulations 3(a), 4(1) and 4(2)(a) of PFUTP Regulations...*”

41. In view of the foregoing and placing reliance upon the aforesaid judgements, I am, therefore, of the view that the trades executed by the Noticee were not genuine trades and being non-genuine, created an appearance of artificial trading volumes in respective contracts, were fraudulent/ manipulative, as contemplated in the PFUTP Regulations. In view of the above, I find that the allegation of violation of regulations 3(a),

(b), (c), (d), 4(1) and 4(2)(a) of PFUTP Regulations, 2003 by Noticee stands established.

Issue II: If yes, whether the failure, on the part of Noticees would attract monetary penalty under Section 15HA of the SEBI Act?

&

Issue III: If yes, what would be the monetary penalty that can be imposed upon Noticee taking into consideration the factors stipulated in Section 15J of the SEBI Act read with Rule 5(2) of the Adjudication Rules?

42. Since the violation of Regulation 3(a), (b), (c), (d), 4(1) and 4(2)(a) of PFUTP Regulations has been established against Noticee, as brought out in the foregoing paragraphs, Noticee is liable for monetary penalty under Section 15HA of SEBI Act which is reproduced as follows:

SEBI Act: 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*

43. While determining the quantum of penalty under Section 15HA of SEBI Act, the following factors stipulated in Section 15J of the SEBI Act have to be given due regard:

a) the amount of disproportionate gain or unfair advantage, wherever quantifiable, made as a result of the default;

(b) the amount of loss caused to an investor or group of investors as a result of the default;

(c) the repetitive nature of the default.

44. As established above, the trades by Noticee were non-genuine in nature and created a misleading appearance of trading. I note that the material available on record does not quantify any disproportionate gains or unfair advantage, if any, made by Noticee and the losses, if any, suffered by the investors due to such violations on part of the said Noticee and does not demonstrate any repetitive default on the part of the said Noticee. However, considering that the violation by Noticee led to creation of artificial trading volumes which had the effect of distorting the market mechanism in the illiquid stock options segment of BSE, I find that the aforesaid violations were detrimental to the integrity of securities market and therefore, the quantum of penalty must be commensurate with the serious nature of the aforesaid violations.

45. Therefore, taking into account the facts and circumstances of this matter, I am of the view that a penalty of **Rs. 11,20, 000 (Rupees Eleven Lakhs twenty thousand only)** under Section 15HA of the SEBI Act will be commensurate with the violations committed by Noticee.

ORDER

46. Having considered all the facts and circumstances of the case, the material available on record, the factors mentioned in section 15J of the SEBI Act, 1992 and in exercise of power conferred upon me under section 15-I of the SEBI Act, 1992 read with rule 5 of the Adjudication Rules, 1995, I hereby impose a penalty of **Rs. 11,20,000 (Rupees Eleven Lakhs twenty thousand only)** on Noticee i.e. **SATISH AGRAWAL HUF** under Section 15HA of the SEBI Act for violation of Regulation 3(a), (b), (c), (d), 4(1) and 4(2)(a) of PFUTP Regulations.

47. The Noticee shall remit / pay the said amount of penalty within 45 days of receipt of this order through online payment facility available on the SEBI website www.sebi.gov.in on the following path, by clicking on the payment link-

ENFORCEMENT -> Orders -> Orders of AO -> PAY NOW

48. The Noticee shall forward the confirmation of penalty so paid to the Enforcement Department –Division of Regulatory Action –V of SEBI.
In case of any difficulties in payment of penalties, Noticee may contact the support at portalhelp@sebi.gov.in
49. In the event of failure to pay the said amount of penalty within 45 days of the receipt of this Order, SEBI may initiate consequential actions including but not limited to recovery proceedings under section 28A of the SEBI Act, 1992 for realization of the said amount of penalty along with interest thereon, *inter alia*, by attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties.
50. Copy of this Adjudication Order is being sent to Noticee and also to SEBI in terms of Rule 6 of the Adjudication Rules.

Date: August 07, 2023

Place: Mumbai

Vijayant Kumar Verma

Adjudicating Officer