

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

ORDER

UNDER SECTIONS 11, 11(4), 11A AND 11B OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA ACT, 1992, IN THE MATTER OF –

1. GURUKUL PROJECTLIMITED (PAN: AADCG9891P).
2. ITSPROMOTERS/DIRECTORS, VIZ.
 - a. SHRI GOUTAM MAJUMDER (PAN: AOLPM6441A; DIN: 02845472).
 - b. SHRI AMIT KUMAR DAS (PAN: AHVPD9170A; DIN: 02872245).
 - c. SHRI DEBJANARDAN MONDAL(PAN: AQBPM0366L; DIN: 05243690).
 - d. SMT NUPUR PURKAYASTHA(PAN: AXAPP3680J; DIN: 02918337).
 - e. SMT MOLI MAJUMDER (DIN: 02880358).
 - f. SHRI BABLU PATTANAYAK (PAN: ALGPP3470Q; DIN: 02945196).
 - g. SHRI JYOTIRMOY HALDER (PAN:ABIPH6525N).
 - h. SHRI SAMARESH DAS (PAN: AKEPD2394L).
3. ITS DEBENTURE TRUSTEES, VIZ.
 - a. SHRI NARAYAN KARMAKAR AND
 - b. GURUKUL DEBENTURE TRUST.

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1. Securities and Exchange Board of India (“**SEBI**”) had conducted an examination into the fund–raising activities of Gurukul ProjectLimited (“**GPL**”)in respect of issue of *Non–Convertible Debentures* (“**NCDs**”) and to ascertain whether GPLhad made any public issue of securities without complying with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956; SEBI Act, 1992 (“**SEBI Act**”) and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder includingthe SEBI (Issue and Listing of Debt Securities), Regulations, 2008 (“**Debt Securities Regulations**”).

2.1 Thereafter, SEBI vide letters dated June 25, 2014, sought *inter alia* the following information from GPL and its Directors at the relevant time i.e. Shri Goutam Majumder, Shri Amit Kumar Das and Shri Debjanardan Mondal, –

- i. Copy of audited Annual Accounts and Annual Returns of the company for last three years;
- ii. Name, addresses, occupation and PAN of all the promoters/directors of the company;
- iii. Names and details of the Key Managerial Personnel of the company;
- iv. Nature of Business of the company;
- v. Other information in respect of issue of shares/debentures by the company, viz. –
 - a. Copy of Prospectus/Red Herring Prospectus/Statement in lieu of Prospectus/Information Memorandum filed with Registrar of Companies ("ROC");
 - b. Date of opening and closing of the subscription list;
 - c. Details regarding the number of application forms circulated inviting subscription for shares/debentures;
 - d. Details regarding the number of applications received;
 - e. Details regarding date of allotment of shares/debentures alongwith name and address of allottees, etc.;
 - f. Copies of the minutes of Board/Committee meeting in which the resolution has been passed for allotment;
 - g. Copies of application forms, pamphlets, advertisements and other promotional material circulated for issuance of shares/debentures;
 - h. Terms and conditions of the issue of shares/debentures;
 - i. Details regarding application for listing of securities;
 - j. Copies of Form 2 and Form 10 filed with the ROC;
 - k. Details of debenture trustee, viz. name, address, Board resolution authorizing appointment, etc.

2.2 The letters sent to GPL and Shri Goutam Majumder were returned undelivered with the remarks '*Left*' and '*Addressee cannot be located*'. The letters sent to Shri Amit Kumar Das and Shri Debjanardan Mondal were delivered; however, no reply was received from them.

- 2.3 Subsequently, reminders dated August 6, 2014, were sent to GPL and its abovementioned Directors. The letters sent to GPL and Shri Goutam Majumder were returned undelivered with the remarks '*Intimation served*' and '*Addressee cannot be located*'. The letters sent to Shri Amit Kumar Das and Shri Debjanardan Mondal were delivered; however, no reply was received from them.
- 2.4 A physical verification of the Registered Office address of GPL i.e. 214, Jodhpur Garden (1st Floor), Kolkata–700045, West Bengal, India, was conducted. However, it was found that GPL was not available at the said address.
3. The material available on record i.e. complaints received against GPL alongwith the documents contained therein and information obtained from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs' website i.e. *MCA 21 Portal*, have been perused. On examination of the same, it is observed that –
- i. GPL was incorporated on October 4, 2010, with the ROC, Kolkata with CIN as U70102WB2010PLC153783. Its Registered Office is at 214, Jodhpur Garden (1st Floor), Kolkata–700045, West Bengal, India.
 - ii. The present Directors in GPL are Shri Goutam Majumder, Shri Amit Kumar Das and Shri Debjanardan Mondal.
 - iii. Smt Nupur Purkayastha and Smt Moli Majumder, who were earlier Directors in GPL, have since resigned.
 - iv. The Promoters of GPL are Shri Goutam Majumder, Shri Amit Kumar Das, Smt Nupur Purkayastha, Smt Moli Majumder, Shri Bablu Pattanayak, Shri Jyotirmoy Halder and Shri Samaresh Das.

- v. From the information obtained from the *MCA21 Portal*, details of *NCDs* issued by GPL is given as under –

Annual Account/Annual Return for the year ended	Amount of debentures issued as given in the Annual Accounts and Annual Return(in Lakhs)	Number of debenture holders as given in the Annual Return
As on 31.03.2011	15.17	30
As on 31.03.2012	107.29	*30
<i>*In the list of 30 allottees, 29 names of debenture holders have been provided and one entry has been made in the name of 'Others'.</i>		

- vi. However, from the documents annexed with the complaints received against GPL, it is observed that GPL issued *NCDs* during the Financial Years 2010–11, 2011–12, 2012–13 and 2013–14, details of which are provided below –

Type of Security	Year	No. of persons to whom <i>NCDs</i> were allotted	Amount (in Lakhs)
<i>Secured Non-Convertible Redeemable Debentures</i>	2010–11	7	4.50
	2011–12	73	39.36
	2012–13	99	53.72
	2013–14	1	0.25
Total		*180	^97.83
<i>*^No. of allottees and funds mobilized has been collated from the documents submitted with the complaints received by SEBI. However, actual no. of allottees and funds mobilized could be more than the above indicated figures.</i>			

- vii. On a comparison of the list of debenture holders as attached in the Annual Returns of GPL vis-à-vis the complaints received against that company, it is observed that except for one *Laltu Hajra* whose investment in debentures was 120000 in the year 2010–11, the complaints received are in addition to those reported by GPL. Therefore, upon combining the figures in respect of the issue of *NCDs* (“*Offer of NCDs*”) as detailed at paragraphs 3(v) and (vi) above, it is observed as under –

Financial Year	No. of allottees			Amount (in Lakhs)		
	As per Annual Return (A)	As per physical complaints received (B)	Total (A+B) Approx.	As per Annual Return (C) (in Lakhs)	As per physical complaints received (D) (in Lakhs)	Total (C+D) (in Lakhs)
2010–11	30	7	36	15.17	4.50	*18.47
2011–12	15	73	88	92.12	39.36	131.48
2012–13	Not available	99	99	Not available	53.72	53.72
2013–14	Not available	1	1	Not available	0.25	0.25
	Total		224	Total		203.92

- viii. GPL created a charge for an amount of 5 Crores on November 20, 2010 and appointed Shri Narayan Karmakar as Debenture Trustee for the *Offer of NCDs* by that company. Subsequently, GPL created a charge of 60 Crores on December 20, 2011 and appointed *Gurukul Debenture Trust* as Debenture Trustee for the *Offer of NCDs* by that company.

- 4.1 In the context of the abovementioned details of the *Offer of NCDs*, the issue for determination in the instant matter is whether the mobilization of funds by GPL through the aforesaid, is in accordance with the provisions of the SEBI Act read with the Debt Securities Regulations and the Companies Act, 1956.
- 4.2 I note that 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, flows from the provisions of Section 55A of the Companies Act. 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."

4.3 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. Construction of reference to offering shares or debentures to the public, etc.

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.

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, if an offer of securities is made to fifty or more persons, it would be deemed to be a public issue, even if it is of domestic concern or proved that the shares or debentures are not available for subscription or purchase by persons other than those received 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. In the instant matter, for ascertaining whether the *Offer of NCDs* is a public issue or an issue on private placement basis in accordance with Section 67 of the Companies Act, 1956, the number of subscribers is of utmost importance.

- a. Under the *Offer of NCDs*, it is observed from the copies of *Non-Convertible Debenture Certificates* made available by complainants, that the same were issued by GPL during the Financial Years 2010–11, 2011–12, 2012–13 and 2013–14, to at least 224 individuals/investors. Funds amounting to 203.92 Lakhs (Table at paragraph 3(vii) of page 4) were also mobilized by GPL. The number of investors to whom allotments were made under the *Offer of NCDs* during the Financial Years 2011–12 and 2012–13 *prima facie* indicate that the number of persons to whom such *Offer* was made, was above the limit of forty-nine persons as prescribed under the *first proviso* to Section 67(3) of the Companies Act, 1956.
- b. However, it is important to note that the number of allottees and funds mobilized under the *Offer of NCDs* for the Financial Years 2010–11 and 2013–14, have only been taken from the complaints received by SEBI, against GPL. Therefore, the actual number of allottees could be many more times than the figures indicated in the Table at paragraph 3(vii) of page 4.
- c. GPL is not stated to be a Non-banking financial company or public financial institution within the meaning of Section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956. In view of the aforesaid, I, therefore, find that GPL is not covered under the *second proviso* to Section 67(3) of the Companies Act, 1956.
- d. In view of the above, the *Offer of NCDs* by GPL, would *prima facie* qualify as public issue under the *first proviso* to Section 67(3) of the Companies Act, 1956. In this regard, it is pertinent to note that by virtue of Section 55A of the Companies Act, Section 67 of that Act, so far as it relates to issue and transfer of securities, shall also be administered by SEBI.

4.4 I note that –

- i. From the abovementioned, it will follow that since the *Offer of NCDs* 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 subsection (1) has been made for permission for the shares or debentures offered thereby to be dealt in one or more recognized 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 recognized 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 1 [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 five thousand rupees."

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

"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.

... 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 Sabaras 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 NCDs* 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 the provisions of Sections 73(2) and 73(3) of that Act.
- iv. In the facts of the instant case, it *prima facie* appears that GPL has violated the provisions of Section 73 of the Companies Act, 1956, in respect of the *Offer of NCDs*.

- 4.5 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, the *Offer of NCDs* was a public issue of securities. Having made a public issue, GPL was required to register a prospectus with the ROC under Section 60 of the Companies Act, 1956. I find that there is no evidence on record to indicate whether or not GPL has complied with the provisions of Section 60 of Companies Act, 1956, in respect of the *Offer of NCDs*. In view of the same, I find that GPL has *prima facie* not complied with the provisions of Section 60 of Companies Act, 1956.
- 4.6 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 GPL has not complied with the provisions of Section 56(1) and 56(3) of the Companies Act, 1956 and therefore, has *prima facie* violated the aforesaid provisions.
- 4.7 Under Section 117B of the Companies Act, 1956, no company shall issue a prospectus or a letter of offer to the public for subscription of its debentures, unless it has, before such issue, appointed one or more debenture trustees for such debentures and the company has, on the face of the prospectus or the letter of offer, stated that the debenture trustee or trustees have given their consent to the company to be so appointed. Further, under Section 117C of the Companies Act, 1956, where a company issues debentures, it shall create a debenture redemption reserve for the redemption of such debentures, to which adequate amounts shall be credited, from out of its profits every year until such debentures are redeemed. Based on the material available on record, I find that GPL has not complied with the provisions of Sections 117B–117C of the Companies Act, 1956 and therefore, has *prima facie* violated the aforesaid provisions in respect of the *Offer of NCDs*.

4.8 In addition to the above, reference may be made to the Debt Securities Regulations, which were framed by SEBI in exercise of its powers under Section 30 of the SEBI Act and are applicable to the public issue and listing of debt securities. It may be relevant to note that under the aforesaid Regulations, '*debt securities*' have been defined as '*non-convertible debt securities which create or acknowledge indebtedness, and include debenture...*' In this context, I find that GPL, through the *Offer of NCDs*, which is a public issue of debt securities, has *prima facie* violated the following provisions of the aforesaid Regulations, which contain *inter alia* conditions for public issue and listing of debt securities, viz.

- i. Regulation 4(2)(a) – *Application for listing of debt securities*
- ii. Regulation 4(2)(b) – *In-principle approval for listing of debt securities*
- iii. Regulation 4(2)(c) – *Credit rating has been obtained*
- iv. Regulation 4(2)(d) – *Dematerialization of debt securities*
- v. Regulation 4(4) – *Appointment of Debenture Trustees*
- vi. Regulation 5(2)(b) – *Disclosure requirements in the Offer Document*
- vii. Regulation 6 – *Filing of draft Offer Document*
- viii. Regulation 7 – *Mode of disclosure of Offer Document*
- ix. Regulation 8 – *Advertisements for Public Issues*
- x. Regulation 9 – *Abridged Prospectus and application forms*
- xi. Regulation 12 – *Minimum subscription*
- xii. Regulation 14 – *Prohibition of mis-statements in the Offer Document*
- xiii. Regulation 15 – *Trust Deed*
- xiv. Regulation 16(1) – *Debenture Redemption Reserve*
- xv. Regulation 17 – *Creation of security*
- xvi. Regulation 19 – *Mandatory Listing*
- xvii. Regulation 26 – *Obligations of the Issuer, etc.*

4.9 Upon a consideration of the aforementioned paragraphs, I am of the view that GPL is *prima facie* engaged in fund mobilising activity from the public, through the *Offer of NCDs* 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, Sections 117B–117C) read with the Debt Securities Regulations.

5.1 From the material available on record, it is observed that GPL created a charge for an amount of 5 Crores on November 20, 2010 and appointed Shri Narayan Karmakar as

Debenture Trustee for the *Offer of NCDs* by that company. Subsequently, GPL created a charge of 60 Crores on December 20, 2011 and appointed *Gurukul Debenture Trust* as Debenture Trustee for the *Offer of NCDs* by that company.

5.2 Section 12(1) of the SEBI Act states that: "*No... trustee of trust deed ... shall buy, sell or deal in securities except under, and in accordance with, the conditions of a certificate of registration obtained from the Board in accordance with the regulations made under this Act*".

5.3 In addition, Regulation 7 of SEBI (Debenture Trustees) Regulations, 1993 ("**Debenture Trustees Regulations**"), provides that: "*no person should act as a debenture trustee unless he is either –*

- i. a scheduled bank carrying on commercial activity; or*
- ii. a public financial institution within the meaning of section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956; or*
- iii. an insurance company; or*
- iv. body corporate."*

5.4 Based on the material available on record, I find that Debenture Trustees, viz. *Shri Narayan Karmakar and Gurukul Debenture Trust*, have acted as unregistered Debenture Trustees, which amounts to violation of the abovementioned provisions of the SEBI Act read with the provisions of Debenture Trustee Regulations.

6. I note that under the *Offer of NCDs*, GPL allotted *NCDs* to the public during the Financial Years 2011-12 and 2012-13. The past and present Directors and Promoters of GPL are/were Shri Goutam Majumder, Shri Amit Kumar Das, Shri Debjanardan Mondal, Smt Nupur Purkayastha, Smt Moli Majumder, Shri Bablu Pattanayak, Shri Jyotirmoy Halder and Shri Samaresh Das. It is alleged that the aforementioned Directors and Promoters are responsible under Section 73(2) of the Companies Act, 1956, read with Section 27(2) of the SEBI Act, for the *prima facie* contraventions committed by GPL through the *Offer of NCDs*.

7. 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 deems fit for fulfilling its legislative mandate. Further, as per the provisions of Section 55A of the Companies Act, 1956,

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 (as mentioned in paragraphs 4.1–4.9 above). It is pertinent to note that GPL and its Director, viz. Shri Goutam Majumder, were not found to be existing at the registered addresses submitted by them in regulatory filings. Steps therefore, have to be taken in the instant matter to ensure that only legitimate fund raising activities are carried on by GPL and no investors are defrauded. In light of the facts in the instant matter, I find that there is no other alternative but to take recourse through an interim action against GPL and its Directors, for preventing that company from further carrying on with its fund mobilising activity under the *Offer of NCDs*.

8. In view of the foregoing, I, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under Sections 11, 11(4), 11A and 11B of the SEBI Act, hereby issue the following directions –
- i. GPL (PAN: AADCG9891P) shall forthwith cease to mobilize fresh funds from investors through the *Offer of NCDs* 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. GPL and its present/past Directors and Promoters, viz. Shri Goutam Majumder (PAN: AOLPM6441A; DIN: 02845472), Shri Amit Kumar Das (PAN: AHVPD9170A; DIN: 02872245), Shri Debjanardan Mondal (PAN: AQBPM0366L; DIN: 05243690), Smt Nupur Purkayastha (PAN: AXAPP3680J; DIN: 02918337), Smt Moli Majumder (DIN: 02880358), Shri Bablu Pattanayak (PAN: ALGPP3470Q; DIN: 02945196), Shri Jyotirmoy Halder (PAN: ABIPH6525N) and Shri Samaresh Das (PAN: AKEPD2394L), 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. GPL and its abovementioned past and present Directors and Promoters, 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. GPL shall provide a full inventory of all its assets and properties;

- v. GPL's abovementioned past and present Directors and Promoters shall provide a full inventory of all their assets and properties;
 - vi. GPL and its abovementioned present Directors shall not dispose of any of the properties or alienate or encumber any of the assets owned/acquired by that company, without prior permission from SEBI;
 - vii. GPL and its abovementioned present Directors shall not divert any funds raised from public at large through the *Offer of NCDs*, which are kept in bank account(s) and/or in the custody of GPL;
 - viii. GPL and its abovementioned past and present Directors and Promoters shall co-operate with SEBI and shall furnish all information/documents sought vide letter dated June 25, 2014;
 - ix. The Debenture Trustees, viz. *Shri Narayan Karmakar and Gurukul Debenture Trust*, are prohibited from continuing with their assignment as debenture trustee in respect of the *Offer of NCDs* of GPL and also from taking up any new assignment or involvement in any new issue of debentures, etc. in a similar capacity, from the date of this Order till further directions.
9. The above directions shall take effect immediately and shall be in force until further orders.
- 10.1 The *prima facie* observations contained in this Order are made on the basis of the material available on record i.e. the abovementioned complaints received by SEBI and information obtained from the *MCA 21 Portal*. In this context, GPL and its abovementioned Directors and Promoters are advised to show cause as to why suitable directions/prohibitions under Sections 11(1), 11(4), 11A and 11B of the SEBI Act and Section 73(2) of the Companies Act, 1956, read with Section 27(2) 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 NCDs* alongwith interest, if any, promised to investors therein;
 - ii. Directing them not to 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.

- 10.2 GPL and its abovementioned Directors and Promoters, may, within 21 days from the date of receipt of this Order, file their replies, 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.
- 10.3 Similarly, the Debenture Trustees, viz. *Shri Narayan Karmakar and Gurukul Debenture Trust*, is advised to show cause as to why suitable directions/prohibitions under Sections 11(1), 11(4), 11A and 11B of the SEBI Act including restraining it from accessing the securities market and further restraining it from buying, selling or dealing in securities, in any manner whatsoever, for an appropriate period should not be issued.
- 10.4 The Debenture Trustees, viz. *Shri Narayan Karmakar and Gurukul Debenture Trust*, 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 it desires to avail itself an opportunity of personal hearing on a date and time to be fixed on a specific request made in that regard.
11. This Order is without prejudice to the right of SEBI to take any other action that may be initiated against GPL and its abovementioned Directors and Promoters; its Debenture Trustees, viz. *Shri Narayan Karmakar and Gurukul Debenture Trust*, in accordance with law.

Place: Mumbai
Date: July 7, 2016

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