

Via video conferencing

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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 10590/2021

MS MANIKA BATRA

..... Petitioner

Through Mr.Akshay Amritanshu,
Mr.Vidushpat Singhania, Mr.Kartikey
Singh, Mr.Ashutosh Jain, Mr.Nachiket
Yagnik, Advs.

versus

TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION OF INDIA THROUGH THE
PRESIDENT & ORS.

..... Respondents

Through Mr.Chetan Mittal, Sr.Adv/Member of
Committee for R-1.

Mr.Chetan Sharma, ASG with

Mr.Apoorv Kurup, CGSC, Mr.Akshyata Singh,
Mr.Vinay Yadav, Mr.Amit Gupta, Mr.Rishav
Dubey, Advs for UOI.

Mr.Tridib Bose with Mr.Soumya Dutta, Advs for
R-3.

Mr.O P Gaggar, Adv for Union Bank of India.

Ms.Geetanjali Sharma, Adv for Sports Authority
of India.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE REKHA PALLI

ORDER

% **22.02.2022**

CM APPL. 9504/2022

1. This is an application filed by the Committee of Administrators (hereinafter referred to as 'the Committee') appointed by this Court vide order dated 11.02.2022 seeking the following directions:-

(a) The Manager, Union Bank of India, JLN Stadium Branch,

Sports Authority of India Building, CGO Complex, New Delhi be directed to ensure absolute compliance with the directions made by the Court on the 11.02.2022 and to treat the members of the Committee of Administrators as being the authorised signatories of the Respondent No.1 as already directed without insisting on the other documentation etc, as is required where change of the signatory is being effected otherwise than under the Order of the Court;

(b) For the reasons detailed in paragraph 9 and 10 above, appoint a Manager as proposed therein, to undertake the detailed functions in the interests of efficient functioning in the TTFI;

(c) Modification of the direction made in paragraph 20 (vi) of the Order dated 11.02.2022 only to the extent that with the prior approval of the Chairperson, any one member of the Committee of Administrators along with the Manager be authorised to sign all cheques on behalf of the TTFI;

d) The Committee be permitted to take steps for identification of a suitable premises at a convenient location for the office of the TTFI;

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner as also the learned ASG appearing on behalf of the respondent no.2/Union of India, who appear on advance notice, do not oppose the application.
3. In the application, the Committee, while giving details of the staff working for the respondent no.1/Table Tennis Federation of India (the 'Federation') has pointed out that the present office of the respondent no.1 Federation is situated on the 3rd floor of an industrial area near Nangloi, Delhi, which not only the staff members of the Federation, but even the players find very difficult to access. It has been further pointed that the present premises has been taken on lease by the Federation, which lease is soon coming to an end and it has therefore been prayed, that the Committee be permitted to identify a suitable

premises at a convenient location for the office of the Federation.

4. In my view the Committee is justified in drawing the attention of this Court to the fact, that the present location of the office of the Federation is inconvenient not only for the players but even the staff members. It would therefore, be appropriate to permit the Committee to take steps for identification of a suitable premises at a convenient location, where the office of respondent no.1/Federation can be shifted and appropriate orders, if necessary, can be passed at a later stage. The Committee is therefore, permitted to carry out the aforesaid exercise at the earliest.
5. However, till the office of the Federation is shifted to a suitable premises, it would, in my opinion, be necessary for the Committee to operate from an office in a more accessible area. Ms. Gitanjali Sharma, learned counsel for the SAI, who has entered appearance at the request of this Court, is directed to obtain instructions as to whether, for a short period, the Committee can be permitted to operate out of an office in a building under the control of the SAI, to facilitate the functioning of the Committee discharging its duties under the directions of this Court. Ms. Sharma assures the Court that, upon receiving appropriate instructions from the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, the SAI will endeavour to find a suitable space. The learned ASG assures the Court on behalf of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, that this request will be examined at the earliest, and appropriate directions, if found feasible, will be issued to the SAI.
6. Learned senior advocate, Mr. Chetan Mittal, a member of the Committee of Administrators, who has joined the proceedings, points

out that a number of office bearers, including the CEO of the Federation, who has in any event resigned today, are located outside Delhi. Consequently, the day-to-day functions of the Federation are being discharged by a significantly small number of staff members, and therefore, prays that a Manager be appointed to assist the Committee to discharge the functions of the Federation efficiently. The said request is justified, and accordingly, Mr. S.K. Tandon (Retd.), Additional District and Sessions Judge, Mobile - +919811719888, Delhi is appointed as the Manager to assist the Committee, for the period during which the Committee is discharging the duties of the Federation, or till any orders to the contrary are passed by this Court. He will be paid a monthly honorarium of Rs.50,000/- and, besides visiting the office of the Federation periodically, will discharge all other functions as may be assigned to him by the Committee.

7. The Committee has also prayed that the Manager of the Union Bank of India, JLN Stadium Branch, Sports Authority of India Building, CGO Complex, New Delhi, where the account of Federation is being maintained, be directed to ensure that the cheques signed by any one of the members of the Committee is treated as having been signed by an authorised representative of the Federation and is honoured immediately without insisting on any further documentation.
8. Mr. O.P. Gaggar, standing counsel for the Union Bank of India, who has entered appearance at the request of the Court, assures the Court that all cheques, which may be signed by even one of the members of the Committee, will be duly honoured, subject to a letter being

received from the Chairperson of the Committee duly attesting the signatory of the cheque i.e., the member of the Committee. The said fair stand taken by Mr. Gaggar is appreciated.

9. Insofar as the request for modification of para 20(vi) of the order dated 11.02.2022 is concerned, it is clarified that the said direction would be read as "authorising any one of the two members of the Committee, other than the Chairperson, to sign the cheques". The same would, however, be subject to approval of the Chairperson.

10. The application, accordingly, stands disposed of with the aforesaid directions.

W.P.(C) 10590/2021

11. List the matter on 07.03.2022, on which date learned counsel for the SAI and the Union of India will be ready with instructions as to whether a temporary office space can be allotted to the Committee to discharge its duties effectively.

12. Learned counsel for the petitioner, who is also present today, submits that though in terms of this Court's order, a copy of the report of the three-member appointed by this Court on 17.11.2021, was forwarded to the petitioner, the same has however, not been received by her. He, therefore, prays that a copy of the report be furnished to the petitioner through counsel as well.

13. The Registry is, accordingly, directed to furnish a copy of the report to the learned counsel for the petitioner as also to the respondents.

REKHA PALLI, J

FEBRUARY 22, 2022/sr