

Chapter 1 - Preliminary

Question

The paid-up share capital of Saras Private Limited is Rs. 1 crore, consisting of 8 lacs Equity Shares of Rs. 10 each, fully paid-up and 2 lacs Cumulative Preference Shares of Rs.10 each, fully paid-up. Jeevan (JVN) Private Limited and Sudhir Private Limited are holding 3 lacs Equity Shares and 50,000 Equity Shares respectively in Saras Private Limited. Jeevan Private Limited and Sudhir Private Limited are the subsidiaries of Piyush Private Limited. With reference to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 examine whether Saras Private Limited is a subsidiary of Piyush Private Limited? Would your answer be different if Piyush Private Limited has 8 out of 9 Directors on the Board of Saras Private Limited?

[RTP - May 18, May 19]

Answer

Relevant Provisions

In terms of section 2 (87) of the Companies Act 2013 "subsidiary company" or "subsidiary", in relation to any other company (that is to say the holding company), means a company in which the holding company:

- (i) controls the composition of the Board of Directors; or
- (ii) exercises or controls more than one-half of the total share capital either at its own or together with one or more of its subsidiary companies:

Provided that such class or classes of holding companies as may be prescribed shall not have layers of subsidiaries beyond such numbers as may be prescribed.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause,—

- a) a company shall be deemed to be a subsidiary company of the holding company even if the control referred to in sub-clause (i) or sub-clause (ii) is of another subsidiary company of the holding company;
- b) the composition of a company's Board of Directors shall be deemed to be controlled by another company if that other company by exercise of some power exercisable by it at its discretion can appoint or remove all or a majority of the directors.

Conclusion

In the present case, Jeevan Pvt. Ltd. and Sudhir Pvt. Ltd. together hold less than one half of the total share capital. Hence, Piyush Private Ltd. (holding of Jeevan Pvt. Ltd. and Sudhir Pvt) will not be a holding company of Saras Pvt. Ltd.

However, if Piyush Pvt. Ltd. has 8 out of 9 Directors on the Board of Saras Pvt. Ltd. i.e. controls the composition of the Board of Directors; it (Piyush Pvt. Ltd.) will be treated as the holding company of Saras Pvt. Ltd

Question

What does the term Financial Statements include in relation to a company under the Companies Act, 2013? Which companies need not prepare a cash flow statement?

[May 2018]

Answer

According to section 2(40) of the Companies Act, 2013, Financial statement in relation to a company, includes—

- (i) a balance sheet as at the end of the financial year;
- (ii) a profit and loss account, or in the case of a company carrying on any activity not for profit, an income and expenditure account for the financial year;
- (iii) cash flow statement for the financial year;
- (iv) a statement of changes in equity, if applicable; and
- (v) any explanatory note annexed to, or forming part of, any document referred to in sub-clause (i) to sub-clause (iv):

Provided that the financial statement, with respect to one person company, small company, dormant company and private company (if such private company is a start-up company) may not include the cash flow statement

Question

Teresa Ltd. is a company registered in New York (U.S.A.). The company has no place of business established in India, but it is doing online business through data interchange in India. Explain with reference to relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 whether Teresa Ltd. will be treated as Foreign Company

[Nov 2018]

OR

Herry Limited is a company registered in Thailand. It has no place of business established in India, yet it is doing online business through telemarketing in India having its main server for online business outside India. State the status of the Company under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.

[Nov 2019]

Answer

Relevant Provisions

According to section 2(42) of the Companies Act, 2013, foreign company means any company or body corporate incorporated outside India which,-

- a) has a place of business in India whether by itself or through an agent, physically or through electronic mode; and
- b) conducts any business activity in India in any other manner.

As per the Rule given in the Companies (Specification of Definitions Details) Rules, 2014, the term "electronic mode", means carrying out electronically based, whether main server is installed in India or not, including, but not limited to-

- (i) Business to business and business to consumer transactions, data interchange and other digital supply transactions;
- (ii) Offering to accept deposits or inviting deposits or accepting deposits or subscriptions in securities, in India or from citizens of India;
- (iii) Financial settlements, web based marketing, advisory and transactional services, database services and products, supply chain management;
- (iv) Online services such as telemarketing, telecommuting, telemedicine, education and information research; and
- (v) All related data communication services, whether conducted by e-mail, mobile devices, social media, cloud computing, document management, voice or data transmission or otherwise;

Conclusion

In the given question, Teresa Ltd. will be treated as a foreign company within the meaning of section 2(42) of the Companies Act, 2013 since it is doing online business through data interchange in India even though the company has no place of business established in India.

Question

SKP Limited (Registered in India), a wholly owned subsidiary company of Herry Limited decided to follow different financial year for consolidation of its accounts outside India. State the procedure to be followed in this regard

[Nov 2019]

Answer

Where a company or body corporate, which is a holding company or a subsidiary or associate company of a company incorporated outside India and is required to follow a different financial year for consolidation of its accounts outside India, the Central Government may, on an application made by that company or body corporate in such form and manner as may be prescribed, allow any period as its financial year, whether or not that period is a year.

Any application pending before the Tribunal as on the date of commencement of the Companies (Amendment) Act,

2019, shall be disposed of by the Tribunal in accordance with the provisions applicable to it before such commencement.

Also, a company or body corporate, existing on the commencement of this Act, shall, within a period of two years from such commencement, align its financial year as per the provisions of this clause.

SKP Limited is advised to follow the above procedure accordingly.

[Note: This answer is based on the assumption that Herry limited is a foreign Company registered outside India as inferred from part (i) of the question]

Question

The information extracted from the audited Financial Statement of Smart Solutions Private Limited as at 31st March, 2020 is as below:

- (1). Paid-up equity share capital Rs. 50,00,000 divided into 5,00,000 equity shares (carrying voting rights) of Rs. 10 each. There is no change in the paid-up share capital thereafter.
- (2). The turnover is Rs. 2,00,00,000.

It is further understood that Nice Software Limited, which is a public limited company, is holding 2,00,000 equity shares, fully paid-up, of Smart Solutions Private Limited. Smart Solutions Private Limited has filed its Financial Statement for the said year with the Registrar of Companies (ROC) excluding the Cash Flow Statement within the prescribed time line during the financial year 2020-21. The ROC has issued a notice to Smart Solutions Private Limited as it has failed to file the cash flow statement along with the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account.

You are to advise on the following points explaining the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013:

Whether Smart Solutions Private Limited shall be deemed to be a small company whose significant equity shares are held by a public company?

Whether Smart Solutions Private Limited has defaulted in filing its financial statement?

[July 2021]

Answer

According to section 2(85) of the Companies Act, 2013, small company means a company, other than a public company, having-

- a) paid-up share capital not exceeding fifty lakh rupees or such higher amount as may be prescribed which shall not be more than ten crore rupees; and
- b) turnover as per profit and loss account for the immediately preceding financial year not exceeding two crore rupees or such higher amount as may be prescribed which shall not be more than one hundred crore rupees:

Provided that nothing in this clause shall apply to a holding company or a subsidiary company.

Also, according to section 2(87), subsidiary company, in relation to any other company (that is to say the holding company), means a company in which the holding company exercises or controls more than one-half of the total voting power either at its own or together with one or more of its subsidiary companies.

In the given question, Nice Software Limited (a public company) holds 2,00,000 equity shares of Smart Solutions Private Limited (having paid up share capital of 5,00,000 equity shares @ Rs. 10 totalling Rs. 50 lakhs). Hence, Smart Solutions Private Limited is not a subsidiary of Nice Software Limited and hence it is a private company and not a deemed public company Further, the paid up share capital (Rs. 50 lakhs) and turnover (Rs. 2 crores) is

within the limit as prescribed under section 2(87), hence, Smart Solutions Private Limited can be categorised as a small company.

Question

Johnson Limited goes for Public issue of its shares. The issue was oversubscribed. A default was committed with respect to allotment of shares by the officers of the company. There were no Managing Director, Whole time Director or any other officer/person designated by the Board with the responsibility of Complying with the provisions of the Act.

State, who are the persons considered as officers in default under the Companies Act, 2013. Examine who will be considered in default in the instant case?

[July 2021]

Answer

Relevant Provisions

As per section 39 of the Companies Act, 2013, which deals with the allotment of securities, states that in case of any default related to minimum subscription and of return of allotment money under sub-section (3) and (4), the company and its officer who is in default shall be liable to a penalty, for each default, of one thousand rupees for each day during which such default continues or one lakh rupees, whichever is less.

As per section 2(60) of the Act, Officer who is in default, has been described as:

For the purpose of any provision in this Act which enacts that an officer of the company who is in default shall be liable to any penalty or punishment by way of imprisonment, fine or otherwise, means any of the following officers of a company, namely:—

- (i) whole-time director (WTD);
- (ii) key managerial personnel (KMP);
- (iii) where there is no key managerial personnel, such director or directors as specified by the Board, or all the directors, if no director is so specified;
- (iv) any person who, under the immediate authority of the Board or any key managerial personnel, is charged with any responsibility.
- (v) any person in accordance with whose advice, directions or instructions the Board of Directors of the company is accustomed to act,
- (vi) every director, in respect of a contravention of any of the provisions of this Act,
- (vii) in respect of the issue or transfer of any shares of a company, the share transfer agents, registrars and merchant bankers to the issue or transfer;

Conclusion

In the given case, as stated Johnson Limited, committed a default with respect to the allotment of shares by the officers. As in company there were no managing director, whole time director, or any other officer/person designated by the Board with the responsibility of complying with the provisions of the Act. Therefore, in such situation, all the directors of the company may be treated as officers in default.

Question

New Private Ltd. is a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 with a paid -up share capital of Rs. 70 lakh and turnover of Rs. 30 crores. Explain the meaning of the "Small Company" and examine the following in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013:

- (i) Whether the New Private Ltd. can avail the status of small company?
- (ii) What will be your answer if the turnover of the company is Rs. 15 crore and the capital is same as Rs. 70 lakh?

[MTP Oct 2021]

OR

MNP Private Ltd. is a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 with a, paid up share capital of Rs. 45 lakh and turnover of Rs. 3 crores. Explain the meaning of the "Small Company" and examine the following in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013:

- (i) Whether the MNP Private Ltd. can avail the status of small company?
- (ii) What will be your answer if the turnover of the company is Rs. 1.50 crore?

[May 18, MTP Oct, 2020]

Answer

Relevant Provisions

Small Company: According to Section 2(85) of the Companies Act, 2013, Small Company means a company, other than a public company,—

- (i) paid-up share capital of which does not exceed fifty lakh rupees or such higher amount as may be prescribed which shall not be more than ten crore rupees; and
- (ii) turnover of which as per its last profit and loss account does not exceed two crore rupees or such higher amount as may be prescribed which shall not be more than one hundred crore rupees.

Nothing in this clause shall apply to—

- (A) a holding company or a subsidiary company;
- (B) a company registered under section 8; or
- (C) a company or body corporate governed by any special Act.

As per the Companies (Specification of Definitions Details) Rules, 2014, for the purposes of sub clause (i) and sub-clause (ii) of clause (85) of section 2 of the Act, paid up capital and turnover of the small company shall not exceed rupees two crores and rupees twenty crores respectively.

Conclusions

- (i) In the present case, New Private Ltd., a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 with a paid up share capital of Rs. 70 lakh and having turnover of Rs. 30 crore. Since, only one criteria of share capital not exceeding Rs. 2 crores is met, but the second criteria of turnover not exceeding Rs. 20 crores is not met and the provisions require both the criteria to be met in order to avail the status of a small company, New Private Ltd. cannot avail the status of small company.
- (ii) If the turnover of the company is Rs. 15 crore, then both the criteria will be fulfilled and New Private Ltd. can avail the status of small company.