REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY, BIHAR

Hearing Before the Bench of Hon'ble Chairman, Mr. Naveen Verma, & Hon'ble Member, Mrs. Nupur Banerjee, RERA, Bihar

Case No. :- RERA/CC/688/2021

Present: For Complainant: In person

For Respondent : Mr. Pravin Kumar, Advocate

02-12-2021 ----- Order 06-12-2021

This matter was last heard at length on along with batch of cases on 24/11/2021

The case of the complainant is that the complainant booked a 3 BHK flat no. 405 in the project "Suraj Suman", Block "A" in october 2013 and was given assurance by Miss Raunak and Shikha Singh of Agrani Homes Pvt. Ltd that the project will be completed within 3 years and accordingly paid Rs. 7,03,589 the details of which as follows: through cheque no. 103503 of S.B.I Rs 2,48,653, cheque no. 103508 of S.B.I Rs.3,20,000 and cheque no. 103512 of S.B.I Rs 1,34,936 but the project has not started till now. The complainant requests the authority to help in refund of the amount paid with interest.

The complainant has placed on record, aadhar card of the complainant, money receipts dated 28.10.2013, 01.03.2014 and 23.04.2014 and Know Your Customer form.

Perused the records of the case. No reply has been filed by the respondent company. The Bench notes that Mr. Alok Kumar, MD of the respondent company has attended all the previous hearings virtually except the hearing conducted on 24-11-2021 and orally authorized Mr. Pravin Kumar to represent the respondent company. A penalty of Rs. 10,000/- was imposed

upon the respondent company for his non-appearance which has not been deposited by the respondent company.

In previous hearings, the MD of the respondent company submitted that a number of FIRs have been lodged against him by the landowner Manish Kumar with whom Mr. Alok Kumar later has entered into a compromise wherein the landowner is ready to return the amount of around Rs. 1 Crore to the company.

The Bench was also informed that the respondent company was unaware of the development agreement executed between landowner and M/s Hira Panna Infra Projects Pvt. Ltd and upon learning the same, the respondent company cancelled 2 agreements out of 4 agreements with the landowner.

The Bench has taken note of the submissions of the parties. A penalty of Rs. 20,000/- was imposed upon the respondent company vide interim order passed on 07.10.2021 for not furnishing copies of FIRs filed against the respondent company along with the compromise agreement with the landowner, which has also not been deposited till date.

The Bench observed that the liability to refund the amount to the allottees is upon the respondent company and it is for them to arrange the money from whatever sources they desire.

After perusing the records and hearing the submissions of both the parties, the Bench hereby directs the respondent to refund the amount paid by the complainant i.e. Rs.7,03,589 /- with interest at the rate of marginal cost of fund based lending rates (MCLR) of State Bank of India as applicable for three years from the date of taking the booking till payment within sixty days of issue of this order.

As far as the penalty of Rs. 30,000 (10,000 + 20,000) imposed upon the respondent company is concerned, the Bench notes that if the said amount is not paid within the period of 60 days as stated above, the same shall be recovered as arrears of land revenue as enumerated u/s 40(1) of the Act.

With these directions, the matter is disposed of.

Nupur Banerjee Member Naveen Verma Chairman