

PROCEEDINGS OF THE AUTHORITY

BEFORE BENCH 5

Dated 13th JULY, 2023

PRESIDED BY HON'BLE MEMBER G.R. REDDY

COMPLAINT NO.CMP/210714/0008129

COMPLAINANTS

- : 1. Mr.Soorej Sasikala Ramesan
2. Ms.Rasna Soorej

Both are residing at

102, Ittina Mahaveer, Electronic
City Phase-1, Neeladri Main Road
Bengaluru : 560 100

Party in Person

RESPONDENT /
PROMOTER

- : 1. M/s.Shriram Properties Pvt Ltd.
No.40/43, 8th Main, 4th Cross,
Sadashiv Nagar,
Bengaluru:560080
2. M/s.Shriprop Dwellers Pvt Ltd.
No.40/43, 8th Main, 4th Cross,
Sadashiv Nagar,
Bengaluru:560080

By Mr.Bharath &
Others, JSM Law Partners

PROJECT NAME &
REGISTRATION NO.

: SHRIRAM SUMMITT
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/
171015/001121



J U D G E M E N T

This complaint is filed under Sec-18 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 before this Authority against the project **SHRIRAM SUMMITT** praying for a direction to pay Delay Period Interest.

BRIEF FACTS OF THE COMPLAINT ARE AS UNDER:-

1. The Complainants have entered into an agreement of sale on 27.06.2019 with the Respondents for purchase of an apartment. The project completion date as per agreement was 31.12.2019. The complainants have paid an amount of Rs.45,60,295/- (Rupees Forty five lakhs sixty thousand two hundred ninety five only) to the respondent till the date of complaint. Since there was delay of more than three years in handing over the apartment, the complainants have filed the above complaint before the Authority praying for a Direction to the Respondents to pay Delay Period Interest.

2. On a perusal of the sale agreement, it is seen that the completion date is agreed as 31.12.2019. The promoter-respondent was required to complete the project and hand over possession of the apartment by 31.12.2019. In cases where in the respondent-promoter has failed to complete or unable to handover the possession of the apartment to the allottee, the Allottee has a right to file a complaint before the Authority and hence this complaint is admissible for relief in accordance with Section 18 of the Act.



3. After registration of the complaint, notice was issued by the Authority to both complainants and the Respondents to appear before the Authority. In pursuance of the notice, issued by the Authority, the Complainants have appeared in person and the respondents have appeared before the Authority through their counsel and authorised representative, filed statement of objections. The Respondent in its statement of objection contended that the project has not been completed within stipulated time due to force majeure events such as scarcity of raw materials, non availability of skilled labours, transport disruption or such reasons beyond the control of the respondent. In addition COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown have also contributed significantly to the obstacles faced by the respondent. In support of their defence, the Respondent has submitted various documents like Occupancy Certificate, RERA Registration Certificate, copy of agreement of sale, and other documents. The respondent has sought to explain the delay by referring to above issues which are nothing but routine requirements of compliances and construction related issues which are required to be handled by the Promoter of any project who has undertaken to develop the real estate project. None of the reason submitted by the Respondent has any force and legal validity to justify the delay in completion of the project and provide any exception from the application of Section-18 of the Act. Therefore, as per Section 18 of the Act, the promoter is liable pay the delay period interest.



4. One of the contentions raised by the respondent for delay in completing the project is on account of Covid-19. As stated earlier, the delivery and completion of the project is December, 2018 and the actual Covid-19 pandemic started during the year 2020 and the respondent cannot plead before the Authority Covid-19 pandemic as the reason for delay in completing the project. The Respondent has obtained occupancy certificate and executed the registered sale deed on 30.07.2022 in favour of the complainants with a delay of more than 2 years. Therefore, the exemption sought by the Respondent on account of Covid-19 for calculation of delay period interest for 9 months is not tenable and the same is not agreed by the Authority. The fact remain that the amounts paid remained with the respondent and there is a cost associated with it to the complainants recognised by the Act.

5. On a perusal of the documents filed and submissions made before the Authority, it is evident that complainants have paid sale consideration amount and admittedly there is a delay of more than three years in handing over the apartment as per the agreement. Hence the complainants are entitled to delay period interest u/s 18 of the Act and accordingly a memo of calculation submitted by the Complainants.

6. The Complainants have submitted before the Authority that the Respondents have executed the sale deed on 30.07.2022 and the possession was taken over by the Complainant with a delay of more than three years. The

Complainants have also submitted various documents such as copy of the sale deed, Statement of account, Receipt for payments, agreement to sale etc., and prayed the Authority to award delay period interest. On the other hand the Respondents have taken more than 4 months time for amicable settlement and the matter is not settled between the parties. The Complainants have submitted the MOC for delay period interest and served on the Respondent. The Respondents have not disputed the memo of calculation submitted by the Complainants.

7. The Authority has heard the matter on 15.2.2023 and the matter was posted for orders. After 15.2.2023, the Authorised Representative of the Respondent has submitted before the Authority that negotiations are underway for an amicable settlement before the Lok Adalat in respect of all the Complaints pertaining to project SHRIRAM SUMMITT, including this complaint and prayed for time. It is relevant to mention that during the hearing on 01.06.2023 in respect of other Complaint No.8291, the Respondents have submitted before the Authority that they could not arrive at amicable settlement between the parties in respect of all the complaints pertaining to SHRIRAM SUMMITT Projects in spite of taking sufficient time and prayed that the matter may be posted for orders.

8. The Respondents were given more than four months time for arriving at amicable settlement. Since, there was no information / submissions from the Respondents even after



taking 4 months time, notice was given from the Authority to both Complainants and Respondents to appear before the Authority on 04.07.2023 to submit their versions, if any.

9. During the hearing on 4.7.2023, the Authorised representative of the respondent was present and submitted before the Authority that they are ready to settle the claims made by the complainants by paying 40% of the delay period interest due and payable by the Respondent to the complainants and prayed for time to arrive at an amicable settlement. The Complainants have not agreed for the offer of 40% made by the Respondents. The complainants have objected for granting further time in the matter as the Respondents are adopting a delay tactics in settling the issue before this Authority and prayed for passing an award based on the MOC filed by the Complainant.

Hence, the Authority orders the following:

ORDER

1. In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 31 read with section 18 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, the complaint bearing CMP/210714/0008129 is hereby allowed.

2. Respondent is directed to pay interest on delay period at the rate of SBI MCLR + 2 from 31.12.2019 till the date of possession i.e., 30.07.2022. The promoter shall pay the interest for the delay period as arrived at by the complainants



amounting to Rs.12,70,679/- (Rupees Twelve lakhs seventy thousand six hundred seventy nine only).

3. The Promoter-Respondent is also directed to pay interest on Rs. Rs.12,70,679/- (being the delay period interest awarded up to the date of possession i.e., 30.07.2022) for the subsequent period of delay in payment of the delay period interest to the Complainants at the rate of SBI MCLR + 2% up to the date of payment/realisation.

4. The Promoter-Respondent is directed to pay the amounts awarded at Sl.No.2 & 3 of the operative portion of the order within 60 days from the date of this order. The Complainants are at liberty to initiate action for recovery in accordance with law, if the respondent fails to pay the amount as per the orders of this Authority.


(G.R. REDDY)
MEMBER
FIFTH ADDITIONAL BENCH
K-RERA

