



PAPER – 2: BUSINESS LAWS



QUESTIONS

Indian Regulatory Framework

1. What is the significance of the Supreme Court and High Court in the Indian judiciary?

The Indian Contract Act, 1872

2. Mr. Sohan, a wealthy individual provided a loan of ₹ 80,000 to Mr. Mukesh on 26th February, 2023. The borrower, Mr. Mukesh asked for a further loan of ₹ 1,50,000.

Mr. Sohan agreed but provided the loan in parts on different dates. He provided ₹ 1,00,000 on 28th February, 2023 and remaining ₹ 50,000 on 3rd March, 2023.

On 10th March, 2023 Mr. Mukesh while paying off part ₹ 75,000 to Mr. Sohan insisted that the lender should adjust ₹ 50,000 towards the loan taken on 3rd March, 2023 and balance as against the loan on 26th February, 2023.

Mr. Sohan objected to this arrangement and asked the borrower to adjust in the order of date of borrowal of funds.

Now you decide:

- (i) Whether the contention of Mr. Mukesh correct or otherwise as per the provisions of the Indian Contract Act, 1872?
- (ii) What would be the answer in case the borrower does not insist on such order of adjustment of repayment?

- (iii) What would be the mode of adjustment/appropriation of such part payment in case neither Mr. Sohan nor Mr. Mukesh insist on any order of adjustment on their part?
3. Rama directs Shyam to sell laptops for him and agrees to give Shyam eleven percent (11%) commission on the sale price fixed by Rama for each laptop. As Government of India put restrictions on import of Laptops, Rama thought that the prices of laptops might go up in near future and he revokes Shyam's authority for any further sale. Shyam, before receiving the letter at his end sold 5 laptops at the price fixed by Rama. Shyam asked for 11% commission on the sale of 5 Laptops for ₹ 1 lakh each. Explain under the provisions of the Indian Contract Act, 1872:
- (i) Whether sale of laptops after revoking Shyam's authority is binding on Rama?
- (ii) Whether Shyam will be able to recover his commission from Rama, if yes, what will be the amount of such commission?
4. Rohan found a wallet in a restaurant. He enquired all the customers present there but the true owner could not be found. He handed over the same to the manager of the restaurant to keep the wallet till the true owner is found. After a week, Rohan went back to the restaurant to enquire about the wallet. The manager refused to return it to Rohan, saying that it did not belong to him. In the light of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, can Rohan recover the wallet from the Manager?
5. Paridhee, a minor, falsely representing her age, enters into an agreement with an authorised Laptop dealer Mr. Mittal, owner of MP Laptops, for purchase of Laptop on credit amounting ₹ 60,000/- on 1st August 2022. She promised to pay back the outstanding amount with interest @ 16% p.a. by 31st July 2023. She told him that in case she won't be able to pay the outstanding amount, her father Mr. Ram will pay back on her behalf. After One year, when Paridhee was asked to pay the outstanding amount with interest she refused to pay the amount and told the owner that she is minor and now he can't recover a single penny from her.
- She will be a major on 1st January 2025 and only after that agreement can be ratified. Explain by which of the following ways, Mr. Mittal will

succeed in recovering the outstanding amount with reference to the Indian Contract Act, 1872.

- (i) By filing a case against Paridhee, a minor for recovery of outstanding amount with interest?
 - (ii) By filing a case against Mr. Ram, father of Paridhee for recovery of outstanding amount?
 - (iii) By filing a case against Paridhee, a minor for recovery of outstanding amount after she attains majority?
6. State with reason(s) whether the following agreements are valid or void as per the Indian Contract Act, 1872:
- (i) Where two courts have jurisdiction to try a suit, an agreement between the parties that the suit should be filed in one of those courts alone and not in the other.
 - (ii) X offers to sell his Maruti car to Y. Y believes that X has only Wagon R Car but agrees to buy it.
 - (iii) X, a physician and surgeon, employs Y as an assistant on a salary of ₹ 75,000 per month for a term of two years and Y agrees not to practice as a surgeon and physician during these two years.
7. R owns an electronics store. P visited the store to buy a water purifier priced at ₹ 54,000/-. He specifically requested R for a purifier with a copper filter. As P wanted to buy the purifier on credit, with the intention of paying in 9 equal monthly instalments, R demands a guarantor for the transaction. S (a friend of P) came forward and gave the guarantee for payment of water purifier. R sold P, a water purifier of a specific brand. P made payment for 4 monthly instalments and after that became insolvent. Explain with reference to the Indian Contract Act, 1872, the liability of S as a guarantor to pay the balance price of water purifier to R.

What will be your answer, if R sold the water purifier misrepresenting it as having a copper filter, while it actually has a normal filter? Neither P nor S was aware of this fact and upon discovering the truth, P refused to pay the price. In response to P's refusal, R filed the suit against S, the

guarantor. Explain with reference to the Indian Contract Act, 1872, whether S is liable to pay the balance price of water purifier to R?

8. What are the conditions need to be fulfilled to make the following agreements valid without consideration as per the provisions of the Indian Contract Act, 1872?
- (A) Agreement made based on natural love and affection
(B) Promise to pay time-barred debts

The Sale of Goods Act, 1930

9. What are the consequences of the destruction of specified goods, before making of contract and after the agreement to sell under the Sale of Goods Act, 1930.
10. What are the implied conditions in a contract of 'Sale by sample' under the Sale of Goods Act, 1930? Also state the implied warranties operative under the Act.
11. Shubhangi went to a Jewellery shop and asked the salesgirl to show her diamond necklace with Sapphire stones. The Jeweller told her that we have a lot of designs of diamond necklace but with blue stones. If she chooses for herself any special design of diamond necklace with blue stones, they will replace blue stones with Sapphire stones. But for the Sapphire stones they will charge some extra cost. Shubhangi selected a beautiful designer necklace and paid for it. She also paid the extra cost of Sapphire stones. The Jeweller requested her to come back a week later for delivery of that necklace. When she came after a week to take delivery of necklace, she noticed that due to Sapphire stones, the design of necklace had been completely disturbed. Now, she wants to terminate the contract and thus, asked the manager to give her money back, but he denied for the same. Answer the following questions as per the Sale of Goods Act, 1930.
- (i) State with reasons whether Shubhangi can recover the amount from the Jeweller.
- (ii) What would be your answer if Jeweller says that he can change the design, but he will charge extra cost for the same?

12. J, a wholesaler of premium Basmati rice delivered on approval 100 bags of rice of 10 kg each to a local retailer, on sale or returnable basis within a month of delivery. The next day the retailer sold 5 bags of rice to a regular customer K. A week later K informed the retailer that the quality of rice was not as per the price.

The retailer now wants to return all the rice bags to J, including the 4 bags not used by K. Can the retailer do so?

Also briefly describe the provisions underlying in this context of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930.

13. Mrs. Kanchan went to the local rice and wheat wholesale shop and asked for 100 kgs of Basmati rice. The Shopkeeper quoted the price of the same as ₹ 125 per kg to which she agreed. Mrs. Kanchan insisted that she would like to see the sample of what would be provided to her by the shopkeeper before she agreed upon such purchase.

The shopkeeper showed her a bowl of rice as sample. The sample exactly corresponded to the entire lot.

Mrs. Kanchan examined the sample casually without noticing the fact that even though the sample was that of Basmati Rice but it contained a mix of long and short grains.

The cook on opening the bags complained that the dish if prepared with the rice would not taste the same as the quality of rice was not as per requirement of the dish.

Now Mrs. Kanchan wants to file a suit of fraud against the seller alleging him of selling a mix of good and cheap quality rice. Will she be successful?

What would be your answer in case Mrs. Kanchan specified her exact requirement as to length of rice?

14. Ravi sold 500 bags of wheat to Tushar. Each bag contains 50 Kilograms of wheat. Ravi sent 450 bags by road transport and Tushar himself took remaining 50 bags. Before Tushar receives delivery of 450 bags sent by road transport, he becomes bankrupt. Ravi being still unpaid, stops the bags in transit. The official receiver, on Tushar's insolvency claims the

bags. Decide the case with reference to the provisions of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930.

The Indian Partnership Act, 1932

15. (i) What do you mean by 'Partnership for a fixed period' as per the Indian Partnership Act, 1932?
(ii) When the continuing guarantee can be revoked under the Indian Partnership Act, 1932?
(iii) What do you mean by Goodwill as per the provisions of Indian Partnership Act, 1932?
16. P, Q and R formed a partnership agreement to operate motor buses along specific routes for a duration of 12 years. After operating the business for four years, it was observed that the business incurred losses each year. Despite this, P is determined to continue the business for the remaining Period. Examine with reference to the Indian Partnership Act, 1932, can P insist to continue the business? If so, what options are available to Q and R who are reluctant to continue operating the business?
17. With reference to the provisions of Indian Partnership Act, 1932 explain the various effects of insolvency of a partner.
18. Ram and Shyam are partners in a partnership firm styled as RS & Co. (the firm). Gopal, a renowned businessman, is their common friend. Ram introduced Gopal to Sundar, a supplier to the firm, as his newly joined partner. Gopal knowing that he is not a partner preferred to keep quiet on such an introduction. This information about Gopal, being a partner of the firm, was shared by Sundar with another businessman Madhav. Next day, Sundar supplied the raw material on credit and Madhav lent ₹ 5 lakhs to the firm for a short period on the understanding that Gopal is a partner of the firm. On due dates, the firm failed to discharge its liability towards both. Advise Gopal, whether he is liable to Sundar and Madhav for the aforesaid liability of the firm.

The Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008

19. A LLP is a new form of legal business entity with limited liability. It's an alternative corporate business vehicle that only gives the benefits of limited liability at low compliance cost but allows its partners the flexibility of organizing their internal structure as a traditional partnership. Keeping in view of above, define the following characteristics of LLP.
- (i) Body Corporate
 - (ii) Mutual Agency
 - (iii) Foreign LLPs
 - (iv) Artificial legal person

The Companies Act, 2013

20. BC Private Limited and its subsidiary KL Private Limited are holding 90,000 and 70,000 shares respectively in PQ Private Limited. The paid-up share capital of PQ Private Limited is ₹ 30 Lakhs (3 Lakhs equity shares of ₹ 10 each fully paid). Analyse with reference to provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 whether PQ Private Limited is a subsidiary of BC Private Limited. What would be your answer if KL Private Limited is holding 1,60,000 shares in PQ Private Limited and no shares are held by BC Private Limited in PQ Private Limited?
21. Narendra Motors Limited is a Government Company. Shah Auto Private Limited have share capital of ₹ 10 crore in the form of 10,00,000 shares of ₹ 100 each. Narendra Motors Limited is holding 5,05,000 shares in Shah Auto Private Limited. Shah Auto Private Limited claimed the status of Government Company. Advise as legal advisor, whether Shah Auto Private Limited is Government Company under the provisions of Companies Act, 2013?
22. XYZ is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013. The paid up share capital of the company is held by others as on 31.03.2024 in as under:
- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (1) | Government of India | 20% |
| (2) | Life Insurance Corporation of India (Public Institution) | 8% |

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (3) | Government of Tamil Nadu | 10% |
| (4) | Government of Rajasthan | 10% |
| (5) | ABC Limited (owned by Government Company) | 15% |

As per the above shareholding, state whether XYZ limited be called a government company under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.

The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881

23. Mr. Y issued a cheque for ₹ 10,000 to Mr. Z which was dishonoured by the Bank because Y did not have enough funds in his account and has no authority to overdraw. Examine as per the provisions of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 whether-
- Mr. Y is liable for dishonour of cheque, if yes, what are the consequences for such an offence?
 - What would be your answer if Y issued a cheque as a donation to Mr. Z?
24. Reliable Limited, an Indian company, is a global leader in Petrochemical products. For payment of the sale price of machinery imported from Alex Manufacturing Limited, a USA based company (the exporter), the Indian company drew a bill of exchange on Manish, a resident of Mumbai (India) who accepted the bill at Mumbai payable to the exporter in Los Angeles, USA. Decide whether the bill of exchange is an inland instrument or a foreign instrument. Assume that the bill of exchange was signed by the authorised person for the drawer company.



SUGGESTED ANSWERS/HINTS

1. (i) Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is the apex body of the judiciary. It was established on 26th January 1950. The Chief Justice of India is the highest authority appointed under Article 126. The principal bench of the Supreme Court consists of seven members including the Chief Justice of India. Presently, the number has increased to 34

including the Chief Justice of India due to the rise in the number of cases and workload. An individual can seek relief in the Supreme Court by filing a writ petition under Article 32.

(ii) High Court

The highest court of appeal in each state and union territory is the High Court. Article 214 of the Indian Constitution states that there must be a High Court in each state. The High Court has appellate, original jurisdiction, and Supervisory jurisdiction. However, Article 227 of the Indian Constitution limits a High Court's supervisory power. In India, there are twenty-five High Courts, one for each state and union territory, and one for each state and union territory. Six states share a single High Court. An individual can seek remedies against violation of fundamental rights in High Court by filing a writ under Article 226.

2. Appropriation of Payments: In case where a debtor owes several debts to the same creditor and makes payment, which is not sufficient to discharge all the debts, the payment shall be appropriated (i.e. adjusted against the debts) as per the provisions of Section 59 to 61 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872.

(i) As per the provisions of 59 of the Act, where a debtor owing several distinct debts to one person, makes a payment to him either with express intimation or under circumstances implying that the payment is to be applied to the discharge of some particular debt, the payment, if accepted, must be applied accordingly.

Therefore, the contention of Mr. Mukesh is correct, and he can specify the manner of appropriation of repayment of debt.

(ii) As per the provisions of 60 of the Act, where the debtor has omitted to intimate and there are no other circumstances indicating to which debt the payment is to be applied, the creditor may apply it at his discretion to any lawful debt actually due and payable to him from the debtor, where its recovery is or is not barred by the law in force for the time being as to the limitation of suits.

Hence in case Mr. Mukesh fails to specify the manner of appropriation of debt on part repayment, Mr. Sohan the creditor, can appropriate the payment as per his choice.

- (iii) As per the provisions of 61 of the Act, where neither party makes any appropriation, the payment shall be applied in discharge of the debts in order of time, whether they are or are not barred by the law in force for the time being as to the limitation of suits. If the debts are of equal standing, the payments shall be applied in discharge of each proportionately.

Hence in case where neither Mr. Mukesh nor Mr. Sohan specifies the manner of appropriation of debt on part repayment, the appropriation can be made in proportion of debts.

3. When termination of agent's authority takes effect as to agent, and as to third persons [Section 208 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872]:

The termination of the authority of an agent does not, so far as regards the agent, take effect before it becomes known to him, or, so far as regards third persons, before it becomes known to them.

In the instant case,

- (i) The revocation of Shyam's authority becomes effective only when it is communicated to and received by Shyam. Since Shyam had not received the revocation letter at the time of selling the laptops, his authority to sell on behalf of Rama was still valid. Hence, the sale of laptops conducted by Shyam is binding on Rama.
- (ii) Shyam is entitled to receive his commission for the sales made while he still had the authority to sell. Since he sold the laptops before receiving the revocation, he is entitled to his commission as per the initial agreement with Rama.

Amount of Commission: Shyam sold 5 laptops at the price fixed by Rama, which is ₹1 lakh each. The total sales amount to ₹5 lakh. The agreed commission rate is 11% i.e. ₹ 55,000.

4. Responsibility of finder of goods (Section 71 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872): A person who find goods belonging to another and takes them into his custody is subject to same responsibility as if he were a bailee.

Thus, a finder of lost goods has:

- (i) to take proper care of the property as man of ordinary prudence would take
- (ii) no right to appropriate the goods and
- (iii) to restore the goods if the owner is found.

In the light of the above provisions, the manager must return the wallet to Rohan, since Rohan is entitled to retain the wallet found against everybody except the true owner.

5. **A contract made with or by a minor is void ab-initio:** Pursuant to Section 11 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, a minor is not competent to contract and any agreement with or by a minor is void from the very beginning.

- (i) By following the above provision, Mr. Mittal will not succeed in recovering the outstanding amount by filing a case against Paridhee, a minor.
- (ii) **Minor cannot bind parent or guardian:** In the absence of authority, express or implied, a minor is not capable of binding his parent or guardian, even for necessities. The parents will be held liable only when the child is acting as an agent for parents.

In the instant case, Mr. Mittal will not succeed in recovering the outstanding amount by filing a case against Mr. Ram, father of Paridhee.

- (iii) **No ratification after attaining majority:** A minor cannot ratify the agreement on attaining majority as the original agreement is void ab initio and a void agreement can never be ratified.

Hence, in this case also, Mr. Mittal will not succeed in recovering the outstanding amount by filing a case against Paridhee, after she attains majority.

6. (i) **The given agreement is valid.**

Reason: An agreement in restraint of legal proceeding is the one by which any party thereto is restricted absolutely from enforcing his rights under a contract through a Court (Section 28 of the Indian

Contract Act, 1872). A contract of this nature is void. However, in the given statement, no absolute restriction is marked on parties on filing of suit. As per the agreement, suit may be filed in one of the courts having jurisdiction.

(ii) The said agreement is void.

Reason: This agreement is void as the two parties are thinking about different subject matters so that there is no real consent, and the agreement may be treated as void because of mistake of fact as well as absence of consensus.

(iii) The said agreement is valid.

Reason: An agreement by which any person is restrained from exercising a lawful profession, trade or business of any kind, is to that extent void (Section 27). But, as an exception, agreement of service by which an employee binds himself, during the term of his agreement, not to compete with his employer is not in restraint of trade.

7. As per section 126 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, the contract of guarantee is defined as a contract to perform the promise or discharge the liability of a third person in case of his default.

In this case, S has given a guarantee for P's payment obligation towards R. When P defaulted after making four monthly instalments and became insolvent, S's liability as a guarantor will come into existence.

According to Section 128 of the Act, the liability of the surety is co-extensive with that of the principal debtor, unless it is otherwise provided by the contract.

Since P failed to pay the remaining instalments due to insolvency, S, as the guarantor, is liable to pay the balance price of the water purifier to R. In the given situation, S will have to pay the balance amount of ₹ 30,000 to R. $[54,000 - (4 \times 6,000)]$

In the second situation, R sold the water purifier misrepresenting it as having a copper filter, while it actually has a normal filter; this changes the situation significantly.

According to Section 142 of the Act, any guarantee which has been obtained by means of misrepresentation made by the creditor, or with his knowledge and assent, concerning a material part of the transaction, is invalid. Here, guarantee is obtained by means of misrepresentation made by the creditor (R), and therefore the guarantee is invalid.

Furthermore, under Section 143, any guarantee which the creditor has obtained by means of keeping silence as to material circumstances, is invalid.

Here R misrepresented the filter type and both P and S were unaware of this fact. The creditor (R) has obtained the guarantee by remaining silent as to material circumstances. Therefore, the guarantee obtained from S will be considered to be invalid.

Consequently, S cannot be held liable to pay the balance price of the water purifier to R.

8. (A) **Agreement made based on natural love and affection:** Conditions to be fulfilled under section 25(1) of the Indian Contract Act, 1872
- (i) It must be made out of natural love and affection between the parties.
 - (ii) Parties must stand in near relationship to each other.
 - (iii) It must be in writing.
 - (iv) It must also be registered under the law.
- A written and registered agreement based on natural love and affection between the parties standing in near relation (e.g., husband and wife) to each other is enforceable even without consideration.
- (B) **Promise to pay time barred debts:** Where a promise in writing signed by the person making it or by his authorised agent, is made to pay a debt barred by limitation it is valid without consideration [Section 25(3)].
9. (i) **Goods perishing before making of Contract (Section 7 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930):** In accordance with the provisions of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930 as contained in Section 7, a contract for the sale of specific goods is void, if at the time when the contract was made; the

goods without the knowledge of the seller, perished or become so damaged as no longer to answer to their description in the contract, then the contract is void ab initio.

- (ii) **Goods perishing before sale but after agreement to sell (Section 8 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930):** Where there is an agreement to sell specific goods, and subsequently the goods without any fault on the part of the seller or buyer perish or become so damaged as no longer to answer to their description in the agreement before the risk passes to the buyer, the agreement is thereby avoided or becomes void.

10. (i) **Sale by sample [Section 17 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930]:** In a contract of sale by sample, there is an implied condition that

- (a) the bulk shall correspond with the sample in quality;
- (b) the buyer shall have a reasonable opportunity of comparing the bulk with the sample,
- (c) the goods shall be free from any defect rendering them unmerchantable, which would not be apparent on reasonable examination of the sample. This condition is applicable only with regard to defects, which could not be discovered by an ordinary examination of the goods. If the defects are latent, then the buyer can avoid the contract. This simply means that the goods shall be free from any latent defect i.e. a hidden defect.

- (ii) **The following are the implied warranties operative under the Act:**

1. **Warranty as to undisturbed possession [Section 14(b)]:** An implied warranty that the buyer shall have and enjoy quiet possession of the goods. That is to say, if the buyer having got possession of the goods, is later on disturbed in his possession, he is entitled to sue the seller for the breach of the warranty.
2. **Warranty as to non-existence of encumbrances [Section 14(c)]:** An implied warranty that the goods shall be free from

any charge or encumbrance in favour of any third party not declared or known to the buyer before or at the time the contract is entered into.

- 3. Warranty as to quality or fitness by usage of trade [Section 16(3)]:** An implied warranty as to quality or fitness for a particular purpose may be annexed or attached by the usage of trade.

Regarding implied condition or warranty as to the quality or fitness for any particular purpose of goods supplied, the rule is 'let the buyer beware' i.e., the seller is under no duty to reveal unflattering truths about the goods sold, but this rule has certain exceptions.

- 4. Disclosure of dangerous nature of goods:** Where the goods are dangerous in nature and the buyer is ignorant of the danger, the seller must warn the buyer of the probable danger. If there is a breach of warranty, the seller may be liable in damages.

- 11.** As per Section 4(3) of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, where under a contract of sale, the property in the goods is transferred from the seller to the buyer, the contract is called a sale, but where the transfer of the property in the goods is to take place at a future time or subject to some condition thereafter to be fulfilled, the contract is called an agreement to sell and as per Section 4(4), an agreement to sell becomes a sale when the time elapses or the conditions are fulfilled subject to which the property in the goods is to be transferred.

- (i) On the basis of above provisions and facts given in the question, it can be said that there is an agreement to sell between Shubhangi and Jeweller and not a sale. Even though the payment was made by Shubhangi, the property in goods can be transferred only after the fulfilment of conditions fixed between the buyer and the seller. As due to Sapphire Stones, the original design is disturbed, necklace is not in original position. Hence, Shubhangi has right to avoid the agreement to sell and can recover the price paid.

(ii) If Jeweller offers to bring the necklace in original position by repairing, he cannot charge extra cost from Shubhangi. Even though he has to bear some expenses for repair; he cannot charge it from Shubhangi.

12. According to Section 24 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, in case of delivery of goods on approval basis, the property in goods passes from seller to the buyer:-

- (i) When the person to whom the goods are given either accepts them or does an act which implies adopting the transaction.
- (ii) When the person to whom the goods are given retains the goods without giving his approval or giving notice of rejection beyond the time fixed for the return of goods and in case no time is fixed after the lapse of reasonable time.

In the given case, J (seller) has delivered on approval 100 bags of rice of 10 kg each to local retailer (buyer) on sale or returnable basis within a month of delivery. Out of these 100 bags, the local retailer sold 5 bags to K (customer). It implies that the local retailer has accepted 5 bags out of 100.

A week later, local retailer received the complaint of some defect in the rice bags, so, he wanted to return all the bags to the J (seller).

According to the above provisions, the local retailer is entitled to return only 95 bags to the J (seller) and not those 4 bags which are not used by K. Because, as per clause (i) above, the local retailer has already sold 5 bags, signifying that he has done an act which implies adopting the transaction relating to those 5 bags.

13. (i) As per the provisions of Sub-Section (2) of Section 17 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, in a contract of sale by sample, there is an implied condition that:

- (a) the bulk shall correspond with the sample in quality;
- (b) the buyer shall have a reasonable opportunity of comparing the bulk with the sample.

In the instant case, in the light of the provisions of Sub-Clause (b) of Sub-Section (2) of Section 17 of the Act, Mrs. Kanchan will not be

successful as she casually examined the sample of rice (which exactly corresponded to the entire lot) without noticing the fact that even though the sample was that of Basmati Rice but it contained a mix of long and short grains.

- (ii) In case Mrs. Kanchan specified her exact requirement as to length of rice, then there is an implied condition that the goods shall correspond with the description. If it is not so, the seller will be held liable.

14. Right of stoppage in transit (Section 50 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930):

Subject to the provisions of this Act, when the buyer of goods becomes insolvent, the unpaid seller who has parted with the possession of the goods has the right of stopping them in transit, that is to say, he may resume possession of the goods as long as they are in the course of transit and may retain them until paid or tendered price of the goods.

When the unpaid seller has parted with the goods to a carrier and the buyer has become insolvent, he can exercise this right of asking the carrier to return the goods back, or not to deliver the goods to the buyer.

In the instant case, Tushar, the buyer becomes insolvent, and 450 bags are in transit. Ravi, the seller, can stop the goods in transit by giving a notice of it to Tushar. The official receiver, on Tushar's insolvency cannot claim the bags.

15. (i) Partnership for a fixed period (Indian Partnership Act, 1932):

Where a provision is made by a contract for the duration of the partnership, the partnership is called 'partnership for a fixed period'. It is a partnership created for a particular period of time. Such a partnership comes to an end on the expiry of the fixed period.

- (ii) **Revocation of continuing guarantee (Section 38 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932):** According to section 38, a continuing guarantee given to a firm or to third party in respect of the transaction of a firm is, in the absence of an agreement to the contrary, revoked as to future transactions from the date of any

change in the constitution of the firm. Such change may occur by the death, or retirement of a partner, or by introduction of a new partner.

- (iii) **Goodwill:** The term "Goodwill" has not been defined under the Indian Partnership Act, 1932. Section 14 of the Act lays down that goodwill of a business is to be regarded as a property of the firm.

Goodwill may be defined as the value of the reputation of a business in respect of profits expected in future over and above the normal level of profits earned by undertaking belonging to the same class of business.

16. Section 40 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932, gives right to the partners to dissolve the partnership by agreement with the consent of all the partners or in accordance with a contract between the partners. 'Contract between the partners' means a contract already made.

Also, according to section 44, the Court may, at the suit of a partner, may dissolve a firm on various grounds including where the business of the firm cannot be carried on except at a loss (in future also).

In the instant case, P wants to continue the partnership business despite the losses incurred over the past four years and Q and R are reluctant to continue operating the business due to continuous losses.

Here, P can insist on continuing the business if the partnership agreement does not specifically provide such a right to one or more partner / partners since Section 40 specifies that with the consent of all the partners or in accordance with a contract between the partners the firm can be dissolved.

Options available to Q and R

Mutual Agreement to Dissolve the Partnership: Q and R can propose to P that the partnership be dissolved by mutual agreement. If P agrees, the partnership can be dissolved amicably.

Dissolution by the Court: If P does not agree to dissolve the partnership mutually, Q and R can approach the court for an order under Section 44.

17. Effects of insolvency of a partner (Section 34 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932):

- (i) The insolvent partner cannot be continued as a partner.
- (ii) He will be ceased to be a partner from the very date on which the order of adjudication is made.
- (iii) The estate of the insolvent partner is not liable for the acts of the firm done after the date of order of adjudication.
- (iv) The firm is also not liable for any act of the insolvent partner after the date of the order of adjudication,
- (v) Ordinarily, the insolvency of a partner results in dissolution of a firm; but the partners are competent to agree among themselves that the adjudication of a partner as an insolvent will not give rise to dissolution of the firm.

18. Partner by holding out (Section 28 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932):

Anyone who by words spoken or written or by conduct represents himself, or knowingly permits himself to be represented, to be a partner in a firm, is liable as a partner in that firm to anyone who has on the faith of any such representation given credit to the firm, whether the person representing himself or represented to be a partner does or does not know that the representation has reached the person so giving credit.

In the instant case, since Gopal allowed himself to be represented as a partner to the RS & Co. and third parties acted based on this belief and therefore, Gopal is held liable to Sundar as he represented himself by his act to be a partner to the RS & Co.

However, Gopal is not liable to Madhav for the liabilities incurred by the firm. Information of Gopal being a partner to the firm was shared by the Sundar (Supplier to the firm) which is not falling within the ambit of doctrine of holding out.

Hence Gopal is liable to Sundar and not to Madhav for the liability of the Firm.

- 19. Body corporate:** Section 2(1)(d) of the LLP Act, 2008 provides that a LLP is a body corporate formed and incorporated under this Act and is a legal entity separate from that of its partners and shall have perpetual succession. Therefore, any change in the partners of a LLP shall not affect the existence, rights or liabilities of the LLP.

Section 3 of LLP Act, 2008, provides that a LLP is a body corporate formed and incorporated under this Act and is a legal entity separate from that of its partners.

Mutual Agency: No partner is liable on account of the independent or un-authorized actions of other partners, thus individual partners are shielded from joint liability created by another partner's wrongful business decisions or misconduct. In other words, all partners will be the agents of the LLP alone. No one partner can bind the other partner by his acts.

Foreign LLPs: Section 2(1)(m) defines foreign limited liability partnership "as a limited liability partnership formed, incorporated, or registered outside India which established as place of business within India". Foreign LLP can become a partner in an Indian LLP.

Artificial Legal Person: A LLP is an artificial legal person because it is created by a legal process and is clothed with all rights of an individual. It can do everything which any natural person can do, except of course that, it cannot be sent to jail, cannot take an oath, cannot marry or get divorce nor can it practice a learned profession like CA or Medicine. A LLP is invisible, intangible, immortal (it can be dissolved by law alone) but not fictitious because it really exists.

- 20. (i)** Section 2(87) of the Companies Act, 2013 defines "subsidiary company" 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 voting power either at its own or together with one or more of its subsidiary companies:

For the purposes of this section —

- (I) 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;
- (II) “layer” in relation to a holding company means its subsidiary or subsidiaries.

In the instant case, BC Private Limited together with its subsidiary KL Private Limited is holding 1,60,000 shares (90,000+70,000 respectively) which is more than one half in nominal value of the Equity Share Capital of PQ Private Limited. Hence, PQ Private Limited is subsidiary of BC Private Limited.

- (ii) In the second case, the answer will remain the same. KL Private Limited is a holding 1,60,000 shares i.e., more than one half in nominal value of the Equity Share Capital of PQ Private Limited (i.e., holding more than one half of voting power). Hence, KL Private Limited is holding company of PQ Private Company and BC Private Limited is a holding company of KL Private Limited.

Hence, by virtue of Chain relationship, BC Private Limited becomes the holding company of PQ Private Limited.

- 21.** According to the provisions of Section 2(45) of Companies Act, 2013, Government Company means any company in which not less than 51% of the paid-up share capital is held by-
- (i) the Central Government, or
 - (ii) by any State Government or Governments, or
 - (iii) partly by the Central Government and partly by one or more State Governments, and the section includes a company which is a subsidiary company of such a Government company.

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 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.

By virtue of provisions of Section 2(87) of Companies Act, 2013, Shah Auto Private Limited is a subsidiary company of Narendra Motors Limited because Narendra Motors Limited is holding more than one-half of the total voting power in Shah Auto Private Limited. Further as per Section 2(45), a subsidiary company of Government Company is also termed as Government Company. Hence, Shah Auto Private Limited being subsidiary of Narendra Motors Limited will also be considered as Government Company.

22. Under the Companies Act, 2013, a Government company is defined in Section 2(45) as a company in which not less than 51% of the paid-up share capital is held by:

- The Central Government, or
- Any State Government or Governments, or
- Partly by the Central Government and partly by one or more State Governments,

And includes a company which is a subsidiary company of such a Government company.

In the instant case, total Government Shareholding is 40% [i.e. 20% (Government of India) + 10% (Government of Tamil Nadu) + 10% (Government of Rajasthan)] = 40%

The holding of the Life Insurance Corporation of India i.e. 8% and ABC Limited i.e. 15%, total amounting to 23% cannot be taken into account while counting the prescribed limit of 51%.

Since the total shareholding held by the Central Government and State Governments combined is 40%, which is less than 51%, XYZ Limited does not qualify to be a Government company under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.

23. Dishonour of Cheque for Insufficiency, Etc., of funds in the accounts [Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881]

Where any cheque drawn by a person on an account maintained by him with a banker—

- for payment of any amount of money
- to another person from that account
- for the discharge, in whole or in part, of any debt or other liability, [A cheque given as gift or donation, or as a security or in discharge of a mere moral obligation, or for an illegal consideration, would be outside the purview of this section]
- is returned by the bank unpaid,
- either because of the—
 - o amount of money standing to the credit of that account is insufficient to honour the cheque, or
 - o that it exceeds the amount arranged to be paid from that account by an agreement made with that bank,

such person shall be deemed to have committed an offence and shall, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to twice the amount of the cheque, or with both.

In the instant case,

- (i) Since Y's cheque was dishonoured by the Bank due to insufficiency of funds in his account, he shall be deemed to have committed an offence and shall, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to Rs. 20,000, or with both.
- (ii) A cheque given as gift or donation, or as a security or in discharge of a mere moral obligation, or for an illegal consideration, would be outside the purview of this section. Hence, if Y issued a cheque as a donation to Mr. Z, he shall not be liable under section 138 of the Act.

- 24. As per section 11 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque drawn or made in India and made payable in, or drawn upon any person resident in India shall be deemed to be an inland instrument.**

In the instant case, the bill of exchange was:

- Drawn in India (since it was drawn by Reliable Limited, an Indian company).
- Accepted in India (Manish, a resident of Mumbai, accepted the bill in Mumbai).
- Payable outside India, in Los Angeles, USA.

The bill of exchange in this case is an inland instrument because it was drawn in India and accepted by a person resident in India, even though it is payable outside India (Los Angeles, USA).