BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL-2, MUMBAI

APPEAL NO. CGIT- 2 / EPFA 27/2025

M/s. Kundan Industries Ltd.

- Appellant

- Respondent

V/s.

The Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner

EPFO, Kandiwali (W), Mumbai.

<u>ORDER</u>

(Delivered on 05-05-2025)

The matter is taken on board today.

Read application for De-freeze the bank account filed by the applicant. Inspite of notice by E-mail, none present for the opponent. Heard Mr. Chheda representative for the applicant, none present for the opponent.

It is contended on behalf of the applicant that, the opponent has freezed the bank account of the applicant u/s. 8-F of the EPF & MP Act 1952 by order dated 10.02.2025. The same is during appeal period and also in violation of their own circular dated 17.03.2022. Before passing the order u/s. 8-F of the EPF Act, no notice was issued to the applicant and due to freeze of bank accounts, the applicant is causing severe hardship, irreparable loss and difficulty in paying salary, EMI and other payments, thus prays for de-freeze the bank account of the applicant.

As the counsel for the opponent is not present, there is no reply nor submission on behalf of the opponent on this application.

Though it is contended on behalf of the applicant that, the order u/s. 8-F of the EPF Act dated 10.02.2025 has been passed during appeal period and the same is in violation of the circular, however considering the date of order i.e., 10.02.2025, it is certainly after 60 days not during appeal period as the present appeal has been filed after passing the order u/s. 8-F dated 10.02.2025, that too with application for condonation of delay as such it cannot be said that, the order has been passed in violation of circular.

True it is that, the application for stay to the order under appeal is yet to be decided, however considering the hardship causing to the applicant in operating the bank account, it will be just to direct the opponent to de-freeze the bank account of the applicant only on depositing the 50% of total amount determined in the order u/s. 7-Q of the EPF & MP Act 1952 with them.

In the result, the application is allowed. The opponent is hereby directed to De-freeze the bank account of the applicant only on depositing the 50% of total amount determined u/s. 7-Q of the EPF Act with them.

Sd/-

Date: 05-05-2025

(Shrikant K. Deshpande) Presiding Officer CGIT -2, Mumbai