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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**
+ **W.P.(C) 4654/2019 and CM APPL. 27766/2020**

CHRISTINE JOAN UNDERWOOD GODDEN Petitioner
Through: Mr. Ashim Vachher and Mr. Pawash
Piyush, Advocates.

versus

UNION OF INDIA & ORS. Respondents
Through: Ms. Archana Gaur and Ms. Ridhima
Gaur, Advocates for UOI.

CORAM:
JUSTICE PRATHIBA M. SINGH

ORDER

% **21.01.2021**

1. This hearing has been done through video conferencing.
2. The Petitioner has filed the present writ petition challenging the denial of her entry to India without providing any reasons, and seeks a quashing of the decision of the Respondent refusing her entry.
3. The brief background of this case is that the Petitioner, who is a British citizen and a resident of London, had a multiple-entry visa which was issued to her by the Indian High Commission at London, and she has been visiting India frequently since 18 years. On 22nd April, 2018, on one of her visits, while going back from India to London, she was stopped at the Immigration centre at the Chennai airport, and was interrogated for about an hour by two officers. In May, 2018, she again applied for a one-year multiple entry visa to India and was duly granted the same on 30th May 2018. While travelling to India on 16th July, 2018, at the Delhi Airport Immigration, she was told that an order passed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India had directed that the Petitioner would not be allowed

entry into India, and hence, she was not permitted to enter India and had to return to London. The Petitioner has, since then, repeatedly visited the Indian High Commission in London, in order to enquire as to why she was denied entry. She was finally informed that she was blacklisted by the Ministry of Home Affairs from entering India.

4. A short affidavit filed on behalf of the Respondents states that the blacklisting order was passed on 16th July, 2018 which, according to the Office Memorandum dated 11th November, 2018 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, is valid for a period of two years.

5. Mr. Vachher, Id. counsel appearing for the Petitioner, submits that the said two-year period has already lapsed w.e.f. 17th September, 2020. Accordingly, in his submission, she ought to be permitted to apply for a multiple-entry visa, which would be considered on its own merits without prejudice due to the history of blacklisting.

6. Ms. Archana, Id. counsel appearing for the Respondent- Union of India, submits that the blacklisting period is over and hence she can apply for a multiple-entry visa once again.

7. Considering the fact that the prescribed blacklisting period has come to an end, the Petitioner is now permitted to apply to the Indian High Commission for a multiple-entry visa to enter India. The said application of the Petitioner would be considered in accordance with law, without being prejudiced by her past record.

8. The present petition, and all pending applications, are disposed of in the above terms.

PRATHIBA M. SINGH, J.

JANUARY 21, 2021/MR/Ak