## UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION Washington, D.C.

In the Matter of

## CERTAIN CHOCOLATE MILK POWDER AND PACKAGING THEREOF

Investigation No. 337-TA-1232 (Enforcement)

## NOTICE OF COMMISSION DETERMINATION NOT TO REVIEW INITIAL DETERMINATION FINDING ALL ENFORCEMENT RESPONDENTS IN DEFAULT

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY**: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. International Trade Commission ("Commission") has determined not to review an initial determination ("ID") (Order No. 8) of the presiding administrative law judge ("ALJ") finding all respondents Organic Ingredients Inc. d/b/a Namaste Plaza Indian Supermarket; New India Bazar Inc. d/b/a New India Bazar; Bharat Bazar Inc.; and Coconut Hill Inc. d/b/a Coconut Hill to be in default.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**: Paul Lall, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436, telephone (202) 205-2043. Copies of non-confidential documents filed in connection with this investigation may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <u>https://edis.usitc.gov</u>. For help accessing EDIS, please email <u>EDIS3Help@usitc.gov</u>. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server at <u>https://www.usitc.gov</u>. Hearing-impaired persons are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on (202) 205-1810.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**: The Commission instituted the original investigation on December 1, 2020, based on a complaint filed on behalf of Meenaxi Enterprise Inc. ("Meenaxi") of Edison, New Jersey. 85 FR 77237-38 (Dec. 1, 2020). The complaint alleged violations of section 337 based upon the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of certain chocolate milk powder and packaging thereof by reason of infringement of U.S. Trademark Registration No. 4,206,026 ("the '026 mark"). The Commission's notice of investigation named several respondents, including but not limited to Bharat Bazar Inc. of Union City, California ("Bharat Bazaar"); Coconut Hill Inc. d/b/a Coconut Hill of Sunnyvale, California ("Coconut Hill"); Organic Food d/b/a Namaste Plaza Indian Super Market ("Organic Food") of Fremont, California; and New India Bazar Inc. d/b/a New India Bazar of San Jose, California ("New India"). *Id.* at 77237. The Office of Unfair Import Investigations ("OUII") was also a party to the investigation. *Id.*  All respondents were found in default. *See* Order No. 6 (Feb. 10, 2021), *unreviewed by* Comm'n Notice (Mar. 2, 2021); Order No. 23 (May 19, 2022), *unreviewed by* Comm'n Notice (Jun. 14, 2022).

On May 24, 2021, Meenaxi moved for summary determination of violation of section 337 by the respondents found in default by Order No. 6 and requested a general exclusion order ("GEO"). On December 1, 2021, the former chief administrative law judge ("former CALJ") granted the motion as an initial determination ("ID") (Order No. 15), but noted discrepancies with respect to respondent Organic Food, calling into question whether that respondent was ever properly served with the complaint and notice of investigation and with the CALJ's order to show cause why the respondents should not be found in default, Order No. 5 (Jan. 13, 2021). *See* Order No. 15 at 1 n.1. No petitions for review of the ID were filed. The Commission determined *sua sponte* to review Order No. 15 and ordered reconsideration of Order No. 6 as to Organic Food and/or any other respondents who may not have been properly served with documents in the underlying investigation. *See* Comm'n Notice at 3 (Jan. 18, 2022). The Commission remanded the investigation to an ALJ for further proceedings. *Id.* 

On remand, the current chief administrative law judge ("CALJ") issued Order No. 18, granting Meenaxi's unopposed motion for leave to amend the complaint and notice of investigation to (i) substitute Organic Food with proposed respondent Organic Ingredients Inc. d/b/a Namaste Plaza Indian Super Market ("Organic Ingredients") of San Diego, California; (ii) correct the address of respondent New India; (iii) correct the address of respondent Bharat Bazar; and (iv) supplement the complaint with Exhibits 9-a, 9-b, and 9-c, concerning Organic Food and/or Organic Ingredients. Order No. 18 at 1-5 (Mar. 11, 2022), *unreviewed by* Comm'n Notice (Apr. 12, 2022); *see also* 87 FR 22940-41 (Apr. 18, 2022). Meenaxi also demonstrated that Bharat Bazar had been actually served with all of the documents in the investigation (prior to remand) despite incorrectly spelling Bharat Bazar's address as being on "Niled Road" instead of "Niles Road." See Order No. 18 at 4.

The CALJ conducted remand proceedings as to Organic Ingredients and New India to respond to the amended complaint and notice of investigation, and then ordered them to respond to an order to show cause why they should not be found in default. *See* Order No. 19 (Mar. 11, 2022); Order No. 21 at 2-3 (May 3, 2022). On May 19, 2022, the CALJ issued an ID finding Organic Ingredients and New India in default. Order No. 23 (May 19, 2022), *unreviewed by* Comm'n Notice (June 14, 2022). Accordingly, the Commission had found all respondents in default (collectively with the respondents previously found in default, the "Defaulting Respondents").

Subsequently, on June 15, 2022, following the remand determination of default, Meenaxi again moved for summary determination of violation by the Defaulting Respondents and requested a GEO. On July 6, 2022, OUII filed a response supporting the motion.

On August 3, 2022, the CALJ issued a remand ID ("RID") (Order No. 27), granting the second motion for summary determination and finding a violation of section 337 with respect to the '026 mark. The RID found that all Defaulting Respondents met the importation requirement

and that Meenaxi satisfied the domestic industry requirement. See 19 U.S.C. 1337(a)(1-3). No party petitioned for review of the ID.

On September 19, 2022, the Commission determined not to review the RID. See 87 FR 58130-32 (Sept. 23, 2022). On November 15, 2022, the Commission issued a final determination finding a violation, issuing a GEO prohibiting the unlicensed importation of chocolate milk powder and packaging thereof that infringe the '026 mark, and terminating the investigation. See 87 FR 70864-66 (Nov. 21, 2022). On the same day, the Commission issued an opinion explaining the basis for its final determination.

On November 9, 2023, the Commission determined to institute an enforcement proceeding under Commission Rule 210.75 to investigate alleged violations of the GEO by four respondents: (1) Organic Ingredients; (2) New India; (3) Bharat Bazar; and (4) Coconut Hill (collectively the "Enforcement Respondents"). *See* Comm'n Notice, EDIS Doc. ID 808258 (Nov. 9, 2023); *see also* 88 FR 78786-87 (Nov. 16, 2023); 89 FR 15220 (Mar. 1, 2024). OUII is also named as a party. *Id*.

On January 10, 2024, the presiding ALJ issued an order directing the Enforcement Respondents to show cause why they should not be found in default and why judgment should not be rendered against them for failing to respond to the enforcement complaint and notice of investigation. *See* Order No. 6 (Jan. 10, 2024). Order No. 6 directed the Enforcement Respondents to make any showing of good cause by no later than February 2, 2024. *Id.* at 3. No party responded to Order No. 6. *See* Order No. 8 at 1 (Feb. 13, 2024).

On February 13, 2024, the presiding ALJ issued the subject ID finding the four Enforcement Respondents to be in default pursuant to Commission Rule 210.16 (19 CFR 210.16). Order No. 8 (Feb. 13, 2024). The ID explained, "[b]ecause the [Enforcement] Respondents have not responded to the order to show cause, they necessarily have failed to make the requisite showing of good cause to avoid default under the applicable rules." *Id.* at 1.

The Commission has determined not to review the subject ID (Order No. 8). The following four respondents are found to be in default: 1) Organic Ingredients Inc. d/b/a Namaste Plaza Indian Supermarket; 2) New India Bazar Inc. d/b/a New India Bazar; 3) Bharat Bazar Inc.; and 4) Coconut Hill Inc. d/b/a Coconut Hill.

The Commission's vote on this determination took place on March 14, 2024.

The authority for the Commission's determination is contained in section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1337), and in part 210 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR part 210).

By order of the Commission.

Mini/2/B

Lisa R. Barton Secretary to the Commission

Issued: March 15, 2024