

HDFC BANK LTD
Form F-3ASR
July 10, 2007
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 10, 2007

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form F-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

HDFC Bank Limited

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Not Applicable

(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

Republic of India
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation or organization)

HDFC Bank House
Senapati Bapat Marg

None
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

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Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013 India

91-22- 6652-1000

(Address and telephone number of Registrant's principal executive offices)

Depository Management Corporation, 570 Lexington Avenue, 44th Floor, New York, NY 10022, 212-319-7600

(Name, address, and telephone number of agent for service)

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Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public. From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are being offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.C. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.C. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered(1) | Amount to be Registered(2) | Proposed Maximum | Proposed Maximum | Amount of Registration |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| | | Offering | Aggregate | |
| | | Price per Unit(2) | Offering Price(2) | |

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| | | | |
|---|----|----|-----------------------|
| Equity shares, par value Rs. 10 per share | \$ | \$ | Fee(2) \$ 0 |
|---|----|----|-----------------------|

- (1) American Depositary Shares evidenced by American Depositary Receipts issuable on deposit of the equity shares registered hereby have been registered under a separate registration statement on Form F-6, File No. 333-13730. Each American Depositary Share represents three equity shares.
 - (2) An indeterminate number of equity shares is being registered as may from time to time be sold at indeterminate prices. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act, the Registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.
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PROSPECTUS

AMERICAN DEPOSITARY SHARES

REPRESENTING

EQUITY SHARES

From time to time, we may sell American Depositary Shares, or ADSs, representing our equity shares in amounts, at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. Each ADS offered represents three equity shares.

This prospectus provides a general description of our ADSs. The specific terms of any offering of ADSs will be set forth in a supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement may also add to, update or change the information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you invest.

We may offer and sell ADSs representing our equity shares to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. The prospectus supplement for an offering will provide the specific terms of the plan of distribution.

Our ADSs are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol HDB. The last reported sale price of our ADSs on July 6, 2007 was \$87.77 per ADS.

Investing in our ADSs involves risks. See the Risk Factors section contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and in the documents we incorporate by reference in this prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other state or foreign securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Prospectus dated July 10, 2007

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This document is called a prospectus and is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the ADSs representing our equity shares that we may offer. Each time we offer ADSs representing our equity shares, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus. The accompanying prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of that offering, and may also include a discussion of any special considerations applicable to our ADSs. The accompanying prospectus supplement may also add, update or change the information contained in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the accompanying prospectus supplement. Please read carefully this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement. In addition to the information contained in the documents, we refer you to the information contained under the headings Available Information and Incorporation of Documents by Reference. The registration statement containing this prospectus, including the exhibits to the registration statement, provides additional information about us and the ADSs offered under this prospectus. The registration statement, including the exhibits, can be read on the SEC website or at the SEC's offices, each of which is listed under the heading Available Information.

All references in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement to we, us, our, HDFC Bank or the Bank shall mean HDFC Bank Limited.

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AVAILABLE INFORMATION

We will furnish to holders of our ADSs, through the Depositary, English language versions of any reports, notices and other communications that we generally transmit to holders of our equity shares.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form F-3 and a registration statement on Form F-6 under the U.S. Securities Act with respect to the offered ADSs. This prospectus, which is a part of the registration statement on Form F-3, does not contain all of the information set forth in these registration statements. Statements made in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract, agreement or other document, are not necessarily complete. Where we have filed a contract, agreement or other document as an exhibit to these registration statements, we refer to the exhibit for a more complete description of the matter involved, and each of our statements in this prospectus with respect to that contract, agreement or document is qualified in its entirety by such reference.

We file reports, including annual reports on Form 20-F, and other information with the SEC pursuant to the rules and regulations of the SEC that apply to foreign private issuers. You may read and copy any materials filed with the SEC at the Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20459. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Our SEC filings are also available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. You can also obtain information about us at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we furnish to or file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and some later information that we file with the SEC will automatically be deemed to update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the following documents that have been furnished or filed with the SEC:

the Registration Statement on Form 8-A we filed with the SEC on July 16, 2001;

the Annual Report on Form 20-F we filed with the SEC on July 10, 2007 for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007, which we refer to as our Form 20-F; and

the report on Form 6-K that we furnished to the SEC on July 10, 2007.

We also incorporate by reference into this prospectus any future filings on Form 20-F made with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), after the date of this prospectus and prior to the consummation of the offering of the ADSs, and to the extent designated therein, future reports on Form 6-K furnished to the SEC.

Any statement contained in a document, all or a portion of which is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed or furnished document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute part of this prospectus.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner of our common shares or of ADSs, to whom a copy of this prospectus is delivered, upon the written or oral request of any such person, a copy of any or all of the documents referred to above which have been or may be incorporated herein by reference, other than exhibits to such documents (unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference in such documents). Requests should be directed to Sanjay Dongre, 2nd floor, Process House, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013, India (Telephone: 91-22-2490-2934 or 91-22-2496-1616, Ext. 3473).

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

We have included statements in this prospectus which contain words or phrases such as will, aim, will likely result, believe, expect, will continue, anticipate, estimate, intend, plan, contemplate, seek to, future, objective, goal, project, should, will pursue and variations of these expressions, that are forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those suggested by the forward-looking statements due to certain risks or uncertainties associated with our expectations with respect to, but not limited to, our ability to implement our strategy successfully, the market acceptance of and demand for various banking services, future levels of our non-performing loans, our growth and expansion, the adequacy of our allowance for credit and investment losses, technological changes, volatility in investment income, our ability to market new products, cash flow projections, the outcome of any legal, tax or regulatory proceedings in India and in other jurisdictions we are or become a party to, the future impact of new accounting standards, our ability to pay dividends, the impact of changes in banking regulations and other regulatory changes in India and other jurisdictions on us, our ability to roll over our short-term funding sources and our exposure to market and operational risks. By their nature, certain of the market risk disclosures are only estimates and could be materially different from what may actually occur in the future. As a result, actual future gains, losses or impact on net income could materially differ from those that have been estimated.

In addition, other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those estimated by the forward-looking statements contained in this document include, but are not limited to: general economic and political conditions, instability or uncertainty in India and the other countries which have an impact on our business activities or investments, caused by any factor including terrorist attacks in India, the United States or elsewhere, anti-terrorist or other attacks by the United States, a United States-led coalition or any other country, tensions between India and Pakistan related to the Kashmir region, military armament or social unrest in any part of India; the monetary and interest rate policies of the government of India; natural calamities, inflation, deflation, unanticipated turbulence in interest rates, foreign exchange rates, equity prices or other rates or prices; the performance of the financial markets in India and globally; changes in Indian and foreign laws and regulations, including tax, accounting and banking regulations; changes in competition and the pricing environment in India; and regional or general changes in asset valuations. For further discussion on the factors that could cause actual results to differ, see Risk Factors.

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THE BANK

Overview of Business

We are a leading private sector bank and financial services company in India. Our goal is to be the preferred provider of financial services to upper and middle income individuals and leading corporations in India. We have experienced significant growth while maintaining strong asset quality and a low-cost funding structure.

Our strategy is to provide a wide range of financial products and services to our customers through multiple distribution channels with high quality service and superior execution. For fiscal 2007, we had net income of Rs. 11.0 billion. As of March 31, 2007, we had total assets of Rs. 1,013.2 billion.

We have three principal business activities:

Retail banking. We strive to be a one-stop shop that meets the financial needs of our retail customers by offering a variety of deposit products as well as loans, credit cards, debit cards, third party mutual funds and insurance products investment advisory services, bill payment services and other services. We aim to provide our customers with high quality service on an anytime, anywhere, anyhow basis through our multiple distribution channels, which included a network of 684 branches (including 22 extension counters) and 1,605 ATMs as of March 31, 2007. As of June 30, 2007, our network of branches and ATMs increased to 753 and 1,716, respectively in 320 cities. As of March 31, 2007, we had approximately 10.0 million customers and approximately 4.1 million debit card holders. We are also a leading provider of retail depository services for holding securities.

Wholesale banking. We provide loans, bill discounting, credit substitutes, deposit products, documentary credits (primarily letters of credit), guarantees and foreign exchange and derivative products primarily to the top end of the Indian corporate sector and small and medium sized enterprises meeting our credit requirements. We also provide a broad range of transactional banking services to a wide variety of corporations and financial institutions. Through our cash management services, we provide our clients with physical and electronic payment and collection mechanisms that are faster and more cost effective than traditional Indian payment and clearing systems. We also provide clearing and cash settlement services to the major stock exchanges in India. In addition, we provide custody services to Indian mutual funds and correspondent banking services to foreign banks and cooperative banks. We were also the first private sector bank to be appointed by the government of India to collect direct taxes on its behalf.

Treasury operations. Our treasury group manages our balance sheet and provides foreign exchange and derivatives products to our clients. Our proprietary securities trading is limited principally to Indian government securities and our proprietary derivatives trading is limited primarily to rupee-based interest rate swaps.

Since we commenced operations, we have made substantial investments in our technology platform and distribution capabilities. In addition to our growing branch and ATM network, we offer telephone banking in 217 cities, as well as internet banking and banking services by mobile telephone. These and other resources give us the capability to deliver a broad selection of banking products through multiple delivery channels that are convenient for our customers. We believe this positions us well to grow as the Indian financial services industry evolves.

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Our business has expanded rapidly over the past several years. Net income has grown at a compound annual rate of 32.4% since fiscal 2004 and we have extended our market and geographical penetration from 4.6 million customers in 163 cities as of March 31, 2004 to 10.0 million customers in 316 cities as of March 31, 2007. Our total assets have grown from Rs. 426.8 billion as of March 31, 2004, to Rs. 1,013.2 billion as of March 31, 2007. While our business has grown quickly, we have maintained a disciplined growth strategy and a strong balance sheet. As of March 31, 2007, customer deposits represented 67.3% of our total liabilities and shareholders' equity and we had an average cost of funds including equity (calculated under Indian generally accepted accounting principles, or Indian GAAP) for the fiscal 2007 of 3.7%. Our cost of funds of 3.1% for fiscal 2006 was one of the lowest for all domestic banks in India (such comparative data is not yet available for 2007). As of March 31, 2007, our net non-performing assets constituted 0.4% of our net customer assets as per Indian GAAP.

Our Competitive Strengths

We attribute our growth and success to the following competitive strengths:

We are a leader among Indian banks in our use of technology. Since our inception, we have made substantial investments in our technology platform and systems. We have built multiple distribution channels, including an electronically linked branch network, automated telephone banking, internet banking and banking by mobile phone, to offer customers convenient access to our products. Our technology platform has also driven the development of innovative new products and reduced our operating costs.

We deliver high quality service with superior execution. Through intensive training of our staff and the use of our technology platform, we deliver efficient service with rapid response times. Our focus on knowledgeable and personalized service draws customers to our products and increases existing customer loyalty.

We offer a wide range of products to our clients to service their banking needs. Whether in retail or wholesale banking, we consider ourselves a one-stop shop for our customers' banking needs. Our broad array of products creates multiple cross-selling opportunities for us and improves our customer retention rates.

We have an experienced management team. Many members of our senior management team have been with us since our inception, have substantial experience in multinational banking and share our common vision of excellence in execution. We believe this team is well suited to leverage the competitive strengths we have already developed as well as create new opportunities for our business.

Market Opportunity

India has had average real GDP growth of 6.8% per annum over the last decade and has liberalized many sectors of its economy. India is also witnessing a favorable shift in its demographic profile, with the upper and middle class constituting an expanding share of the population. We believe that banking in India remains an under-penetrated market with substantial growth opportunities, particularly for a private sector bank in a market traditionally dominated by large public sector banks.

Our Business Strategies

Our business strategy emphasizes the following elements:

Increase our market share in India's expanding banking and financial services industry. In addition to benefiting from the overall growth in India's economy and financial services industry, we believe we can increase our market share by continuing our focus on our competitive strengths. We also aim to increase geographical and market penetration by expanding our branch and ATM network and increasing our efforts to cross-sell our products.

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Maintain strong asset quality through disciplined credit risk management. We have maintained high quality loan and investment portfolios through careful targeting of our customer base, a comprehensive risk assessment process and diligent risk monitoring and remediation procedures. We believe we can maintain strong asset quality appropriate to the loan portfolio composition, while achieving growth.

Maintain a low cost of funds. We believe we can maintain a relatively low-cost funding base as compared to our competitors, by expanding our base of retail deposits and increasing the free float generated by transaction services such as cash management and stock exchange clearing.

Focus on high earnings growth with low volatility. We intend to maintain our focus on steady earnings growth through conservative risk management techniques and low cost funding. In addition, we intend not to rely heavily on revenue derived from trading so as to limit volatility.

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RISK FACTORS

Please carefully consider the risk factors described in our filings on Form 20-F made with the SEC which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus, as well as other information we include or incorporate by reference in this prospectus or include in any applicable prospectus supplement. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will use the new proceeds from the sales of the ADSs as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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DESCRIPTION OF EQUITY SHARES

The Company

We are registered under number 11-80618 of 1994 with the Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra State, India. Our Articles permit us to engage in a wide variety of activities, including all of the activities in which we currently engage or intend to engage, as well as other activities in which we currently have no intention of engaging.

Dividends

Under Indian law, a company pays dividends upon a recommendation by its board of directors and approval by a majority of the shareholders at the annual general meeting of shareholders held within six months of the end of each fiscal year. The shareholders have the right to decrease but not increase the dividend amount recommended by the board of directors. Dividends are generally declared as a percentage of par value and distributed and paid to shareholders in proportion to the paid-up value of their equity shares. The Companies Act provides that shares of a company of the same class must receive equal dividend treatment.

These distributions and payments are required to be deposited into a separate bank account and paid to shareholders within 30 days of the annual general meeting where the resolution for declaration of dividends is approved.

The Companies Act states that any dividends that remain unpaid or unclaimed after that period are to be transferred to a special bank account. Any money that remains unclaimed for seven years from the date of the transfer is to be transferred by us to a fund created by the government of India. No claims for the payment of dividends unpaid or unclaimed for a period of seven years shall lie against the fund of the government of India or against us.

Our Articles authorize our board of directors to declare interim dividends, the amount of which must be deposited in a separate bank account within five days and paid to the shareholders within 30 days of the declaration.

Under the Companies Act, final dividends payable can be paid only in cash to the registered shareholder at a record date fixed prior to the relevant annual general meeting, to his order or to the order of his banker.

Before paying any dividend on our shares, we are required under the Indian Banking Regulation Act to write off all capitalized expenses (including preliminary expenses, organization expenses, share-selling commission, brokerage, amounts of losses incurred or any other item of expenditure not represented by tangible assets). We are permitted to declare dividends of up to 33.33% of net profit calculated under Indian GAAP without prior RBI approval subject to compliance with certain prescribed requirements. Further, upon compliance with the prescribed requirements, we are also permitted to declare interim dividends subject to the above-mentioned cap computed for the relevant accounting period.

Dividends may only be paid out of our profits for the relevant year and in certain contingencies out of the reserves of the company. Before declaring dividends, we are required, under the Indian Banking Regulation Act, to transfer 25% of the balance of profits of each year to a reserve fund.

Bonus Shares

In addition to permitting dividends to be paid out of current or retained earnings calculated under Indian GAAP, the Companies Act permits our board of directors, subject to the approval of our shareholders, to distribute to the shareholders, in the form of fully paid-up bonus equity shares, an amount transferred from the capital surplus reserve or legal reserve to stated capital. Bonus equity shares can be distributed only with the prior approval of the RBI. These bonus equity shares must be distributed to shareholders in proportion to the number of equity shares owned by them.

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Preemptive Rights and Issue of Additional Shares

The Companies Act gives shareholders the right to subscribe for new shares in proportion to their existing shareholdings unless otherwise determined by a resolution passed by three-fourths of the shareholders present and voting at a general meeting. Under the Companies Act and our Articles, in the event of an issuance of securities, subject to the limitations set forth above, we must first offer the new shares to the holders of equity shares on a fixed record date. The offer, required to be made by notice, must include:

the right, exercisable by the shareholders of record, to renounce the shares offered in favor of any other person;

the number of shares offered; and

the period of the offer, which may not be less than 15 days from the date of the offer. If the offer is not accepted, it is deemed to have been declined.

Our board of directors is permitted to distribute equity shares not accepted by existing shareholders in the manner it deems beneficial for us in accordance with our Articles. Holders of ADSs may not be able to participate in any such offer. See Description of American Depositary Shares Share Dividends and Other Distributions.

General Meetings of Shareholders

There are two types of general meetings of shareholders: annual general meetings and extraordinary general meetings. We are required to convene our annual general meeting within six months after the end of each fiscal year. We may convene an extraordinary general meeting when necessary or at the request of a shareholder or shareholders holding on the date of the request at least 10% of our paid-up capital. A general meeting is generally convened by our secretary in accordance with a resolution of the board of directors. Written notice stating the agenda of the meeting must be given at least 21 days prior to the date set for the general meeting to the shareholders whose names are in the register at the record date. Those shareholders who are not registered at the record date do not receive notice of this meeting and are not entitled to attend or vote at this meeting.

The annual general meeting is held in Mumbai, the city in which our registered office is located. General meetings other than the annual general meeting may be held at any location if so determined by a resolution of our board of directors.

Voting Rights

A shareholder has one vote for each equity share and voting may be by a show of hands or on a poll. However, under the Indian Banking Regulation Act, on poll, a shareholder cannot exercise voting rights in excess of 10% of the total voting rights of all shareholders. Unless a poll is demanded by a shareholder, resolutions are adopted at a general meeting by a majority of the shareholders having voting rights present or represented. The quorum for a general meeting is five members personally present. Generally, resolutions may be passed by simple majority of the shareholders present and voting at any general meeting. However, resolutions such as an amendment to the organizational documents, commencement of a new line of business, an issue of additional equity shares without preemptive rights and reductions of share capital, require that the votes cast in favor of the resolution (whether by show of hands or on a poll) are not less than three times the number of votes, if any, cast against the resolution. As provided in our Articles, a shareholder may exercise his voting rights by proxy to be given in the form prescribed by us. This proxy, however, is required to be lodged with us at least 48 hours before the time of the relevant meeting. A shareholder may, by a single power of attorney, grant general power of representation covering several general meetings. A corporate shareholder is also entitled to nominate a representative to attend and vote on its behalf at all general meetings.

The Companies Act has recently been amended to provide for the passing of resolutions in relation to certain matters specified by the government of India, by means of a postal ballot.

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ADS holders have no voting rights with respect to the deposited shares. See Description of American Depositary Shares Voting Rights.

Annual Report

At least 21 days before an annual general meeting, we must circulate either a detailed or abridged version of our Indian GAAP audited financial accounts, together with the Directors Report and the Auditor s Report, to the shareholders along with a notice convening the annual general meeting. We are also required under the Companies Act to make available upon the request of any shareholder our complete balance sheet and profit and loss account.

Under the Companies Act, we must file with the Registrar of Companies our Indian GAAP balance sheet and profit and loss account within 30 days of the conclusion of the annual general meeting and our annual return within 60 days of the conclusion of that meeting.

Register of Shareholders, Record Dates and Transfer of Shares

The equity shares are in registered form. We maintain a register of our shareholders in Mumbai. We register transfers of equity shares on the register of shareholders upon presentation of certificates in respect of the transfer of equity shares held in physical form together with a transfer deed duly executed by the transferor and transferee. These transfer deeds attract stamp duty, which has been fixed at 0.5% of the transfer price.

For the purpose of determining equity shares entitled to annual dividends, the register of shareholders is closed for a period prior to the annual general meeting. The Companies Act and our listing agreements with the stock exchanges permit us, pursuant to a resolution of our board of directors and upon at least 30 days advance notice to the stock exchanges, to set the record date and close the register of shareholders after seven days public notice for not more than 30 days at a time, and for not more than 45 days in a year, in order for us to determine which shareholders are entitled to certain rights pertaining to the equity shares. Trading of equity shares and delivery of certificates in respect of the equity shares may, however, continue after the register of shareholders is closed.

Transfer of Shares

Shares held through depositories are transferred in the form of book entries or in electronic form in accordance with the regulations laid down by SEBI. These regulations provide the regime for the functioning of the depositories and the participants and set out the manner in which the records are to be kept and maintained and the safeguards to be followed in this system. Transfers of beneficial ownership of shares held through a depository are exempt from stamp duty.

SEBI requires that our equity shares for trading and settlement purposes be in book-entry form for all investors, except for transactions that are not made on a stock exchange and transactions that are not required to be reported to the stock exchange. Transfers of equity shares in book-entry form require both the seller and the purchaser of the equity shares to establish accounts with depository participants appointed by depositories established under the Depositories Act, 1996. Charges for opening an account with a depository participant, transaction charges for each trade and custodian charges for securities held in each account vary depending upon the practice of each depository participant. Upon delivery, the equity shares shall be registered in the name of the relevant depository on our books and this depository shall enter the name of the investor in its records as the beneficial owner. The transfer of beneficial ownership shall be effected through the records of the depository. The beneficial owner shall be entitled to all rights and benefits and subject to all liabilities in respect of his securities held by a depository.

The requirement to hold the equity shares in book-entry form will apply to the ADS holders when the equity shares are withdrawn from the depository facility upon surrender of the ADSs. In order to trade the equity shares in the Indian market, the withdrawing ADS holder will be required to comply with the procedures described above.

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Our equity shares are freely transferable, subject only to the provisions of the Companies Act under which, if a transfer of equity shares contravenes the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 or the regulations issued under it or the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, or any other similar law, the Indian Company Law Board may, on application made by us, a depository incorporated in India, an investor, SEBI or certain other parties, direct a rectification of the register of records. It is a condition of our listing that we transfer equity shares and deliver share certificates duly endorsed for the transfer within one month of the date of lodgment of transfer. If a company without sufficient cause refuses to register a transfer of equity shares within two months from the date on which the instrument of transfer is delivered to the company, the transferee may appeal to the Indian Company Law Board seeking to register the transfer of equity shares. The Indian Company Law Board may, in its discretion, issue an interim order suspending the voting rights attached to the relevant equity shares before completing its investigation of the alleged contravention. Our Articles provide for certain restrictions on the transfer of equity shares, including granting power to the board of directors in certain circumstances, to refuse to register or acknowledge transfer of equity shares or other securities issued by us. Furthermore, the RBI requires us to obtain its approval before registering a transfer of equity shares in favor of a person which together with equity shares already held by him represent more than 5.0% of our share capital.

Our transfer agent is Datamatics Financial Services Limited, located in Mumbai. Certain foreign exchange control and security regulations apply to the transfer of equity shares by a non-resident or a foreigner. See [Restrictions on Foreign Ownership of Indian Securities](#).

Disclosure of Ownership Interest

The provisions of the Companies Act generally require beneficial owners of equity shares of Indian companies that are not holders of record to declare to the company details of the holder of record and holders of record to declare details of the beneficial owner. While it is unclear whether these provisions apply to holders of an Indian company's ADSs, investors who exchange ADSs for equity shares are subject to this provision. Failure to comply with these provisions would not affect the obligation of a company to register a transfer of equity shares or to pay any dividends to the registered holder of any equity shares in respect of which this declaration has not been made, but any person who fails to make the required declaration may be liable for a fine of up to Rs. 1,000 for each day this failure continues. However, under the Indian Banking Regulation Act, a registered holder of any equity shares, except in certain conditions, shall not be liable to any suit or proceeding on the ground that the title to those equity shares vests in another person.

Acquisition by the Issuer of Its Own Shares

Until recently, the Companies Act did not permit a company to acquire its own equity shares because of the resulting reduction in the company's capital. However, the government of India amended the Companies Act and consequently this reduction in capital is permitted in certain circumstances. The reduction of capital requires compliance with buy-back provisions specified in the Companies Act and by SEBI.

ADS holders will be eligible to participate in a buy-back in certain cases. An ADS holder may acquire equity shares by withdrawing them from the depository facility and then selling those equity shares back to us. ADS holders should note that equity shares withdrawn from the depository facility may only be redeposited into the depository facility under certain circumstances. See [Description of American Depositary Shares](#) [Deposit](#), [Withdrawal](#) and [Cancellation](#).

There can be no assurance that the equity shares offered by an ADS investor in any buy-back of shares by us will be accepted by us. The position regarding regulatory approvals required for ADS holders to participate in a buy-back is not clear. ADS investors are advised to consult their Indian legal advisers prior to participating in any buy-back by us, including in relation to any regulatory approvals and tax issues relating to the buy-back.

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Liquidation Rights

Subject to the rights of depositors, creditors and employees, in the event of our winding up, the holders of the equity shares are entitled to be repaid the amounts of capital paid up or credited as paid up on these equity shares. All surplus assets remaining belong to the holders of the equity shares in proportion to the amount paid up or credited as paid up on these equity shares, respectively, at the commencement of the winding-up.

Acquisition of the Undertaking by the Government

Under the Indian Banking Regulation Act, the government may, after consultation with the RBI, in the interest of our depositors or banking policy or better provision of credit generally or to a particular community or area, acquire our banking business. The RBI may acquire our business if it is satisfied that we have failed to comply with the directions given to us by the RBI or that our business is being managed in a manner detrimental to the interest of our depositors. Similarly, the government of India may also acquire our business based on a report by the RBI.

Takeover Code and Listing Agreements

Under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisitions of Shares & Takeovers) Regulations, 1997 (the Takeover Code), upon the acquisition of more than 5% of the outstanding shares or voting rights of a publicly listed Indian company, a purchaser is required to notify the company and the company and the purchaser are required to notify all the stock exchanges on which the shares of such company are listed. Such notification is also required upon acquisition of 10% and 14% of the outstanding shares or voting rights of a publicly listed Indian company. An ADS holder would be subject to these notification requirements.

Upon the acquisition of 15% or more of such shares or voting rights, or a change in control of the company, the purchaser is required to make an open offer to the other shareholders, offering to purchase at least 20% of all the outstanding shares of the company at a minimum offer price as determined pursuant to the Takeover Code. Since we are a listed company in India, the provisions of the Takeover Code will apply to us. However, the Takeover Code provides for a specific exemption from this provision to an ADS holder and states that this provision will apply to an ADS holder only once he or she converts the ADSs into the underlying equity shares.

We have entered into listing agreements with each of the Indian stock exchanges on which our equity shares are listed. Each of the listing agreements provides that if a purchase of a listed company's shares results in the purchaser and its affiliates holding more than 5% of the company's outstanding equity shares or voting rights, the purchaser and the company must report its holding to the company and the relevant stock exchanges. The agreements also provide that if an acquisition results in the purchaser and its affiliates holding equity shares representing more than 15% of the voting rights in the company, then the purchaser must, before acquiring such equity shares, make an offer on a uniform basis to all remaining shareholders of the company to acquire equity shares that have at least an additional 20% of the voting rights of the total equity shares of the company at a prescribed price.

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DESCRIPTION OF AMERICAN DEPOSITARY SHARES

American Depositary Shares

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as depositary, will issue the American Depositary Shares, or ADSs, related to any offering. Each ADS will represent an ownership interest in three equity shares which we will deposit with the custodian, as agent of the depositary, under the deposit agreement among ourselves, the depositary and yourself as an ADR holder. In the future, each ADS will also represent any securities, cash or other property deposited with the depositary but which it has not distributed directly to you. Your ADSs will be evidenced by what are known as American Depositary Receipts or ADRs.

The depositary's office is located at 4 New York Plaza, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10004.

You may hold ADSs either directly or indirectly through your broker or other financial institution. If you hold ADSs directly, by having an ADS registered in your name on the books of the depositary, you are an ADR holder. This description assumes you hold your ADSs directly. If you hold the ADSs through your broker or financial institution nominee, you must rely on the procedures of such broker or financial institution to assert the rights of an ADR holder described in this section. You should consult with your broker or financial institution to find out what those procedures are.

Because the depositary's nominee will actually be the registered owner of the shares, you must rely on it to exercise the rights of a shareholder on your behalf. The obligations of the depositary and its agents are set out in the deposit agreement. The deposit agreement and the ADSs are governed by New York law.

The following is a summary of the material terms of the deposit agreement. Because it is a summary, it does not contain all the information that may be important to you. For more complete information, you should read the entire deposit agreement and the form of ADR which contains the terms of your ADSs. You can read a copy of the deposit agreement which was filed as an exhibit to the registration statement on Form F-1 we filed on July 12, 2001. You may also obtain a copy of the deposit agreement at the SEC's Public Reference Room which is located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

Share Dividends and Other Distributions

We may make various types of distributions with respect to our securities. The depositary has agreed to pay to you the cash dividends or other distributions it or the custodian receives on shares or other deposited securities, after deducting its expenses. You will receive these distributions in proportion to the number of underlying shares that your ADSs represent.

Except as stated below, to the extent the depositary is legally permitted it will deliver such distributions to ADR holders in proportion to their interests in the following manner:

Cash

The depositary will distribute any U.S. dollars available to it resulting from a cash dividend or other cash distribution if this is practicable and can be done in a reasonable manner. The depositary will attempt to distribute this cash in a practicable manner, and may deduct any taxes required to be withheld, any expenses of converting foreign currency and transferring funds to the United States and other expenses and adjustments. If exchange rates fluctuate during a time when the depositary cannot convert a foreign currency, you may lose some or all of the value of the distribution.

Shares

In the case of a distribution in shares, the depositary will issue additional ADRs to evidence the number of ADSs representing such shares. Only whole ADSs will be issued. The depositary will sell any shares which would result in fractional ADSs and distribute the net proceeds to the ADR holders entitled to them.

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Rights to Receive Additional Shares

In the case of a distribution of rights to subscribe for additional shares or other rights, if we provide satisfactory evidence that the depositary may lawfully distribute the rights, the depositary may arrange for ADR holders to instruct the depositary as to the exercise of the rights. However, if we do not furnish that evidence or if the depositary determines it is not practical to distribute the rights, the depositary may:

sell the rights, if practicable, and distribute the net proceeds as cash, or

allow the rights to lapse, in which case ADR holders will receive nothing.

We have no obligation to file a registration statement under the Securities Act in order to make any rights available to ADR holders.

Other Distributions

In the case of a distribution of securities or property other than those described above, the depositary may either:

distribute such securities or property in any manner it deems equitable and practicable,

to the extent the depositary deems distribution of such securities or property not to be equitable and practicable, sell such securities or property and distribute any net proceeds in the same way it distributes cash, or

hold the distributed property, in which case the ADSs will also represent the distributed property.

Any U.S. dollars will be distributed by checks drawn on a bank in the United States for whole dollars and cents (fractional cents will be withheld without liability for interest and added to future cash distributions).

The depositary may choose any practical method of distribution for any specific ADR holder, including the distribution of foreign currency, securities or property, or it may retain those items, without paying interest on or investing them, on behalf of the ADR holder as deposited securities.

The depositary is not responsible if it decides that it is unlawful or impractical to make a distribution available to any ADR holders.

We cannot assure you that the depositary will be able to convert any currency at a specified exchange rate or sell any property, rights, shares or other securities at a specified price, or that any of such transactions can be completed within a specified time period.

Deposit, Withdrawal and Cancellation

The depositary will issue ADSs upon the deposit of shares or evidence of rights to receive shares with the custodian. In the case of the ADSs to be issued under the accompanying prospectus supplement, we will arrange with the underwriters named therein to deposit such shares.

Except for shares that we deposit, no shares may be deposited by persons located in India, residents of India or for, or on the account of, such persons. Under current Indian laws and regulations, the depositary cannot accept deposits of outstanding shares and issue ADRs evidencing ADSs representing such shares without prior approval of the government of India. However, an investor who surrenders an ADS and withdraws shares may be permitted to redeposit those shares in the depositary facility in exchange for ADSs and the depositary may accept deposits of outstanding shares purchased by a non-resident of India on the local stock exchange and issue ADSs representing those shares. However, in each case, the number of shares redeposited or deposited cannot exceed the number represented by ADSs converted into underlying shares.

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Shares deposited in the future with the custodian must be accompanied by certain documents, including instruments showing that such shares have been properly transferred or endorsed to the person on whose behalf the deposit is being made. After the closing of the offering to which the accompanying prospectus supplement relates, unless otherwise agreed by the depository and ourselves and permitted by applicable law, only the following may be deposited with the depository or custodian:

shares issued as a free distribution in respect of deposited securities;

shares subscribed for or acquired by holders from us through the exercise of rights distributed by us to such persons in respect of shares; and

securities issued by us as a result of any change in par value, subdivision, consolidation and other reclassification of deposited securities or otherwise.

We will inform the depository if any of the shares permitted to be deposited do not rank *pari passu* with the shares issued in the offering to which the accompanying prospectus supplement relates and the depository will arrange for the ADSs issuable with respect to such shares to be differentiated from those issued in such offering until such time as they rank *pari passu* with the shares issued in such offering.

The custodian will hold all deposited shares (including those being deposited by or on our behalf in connection with the offering to which the accompanying prospectus supplement relates) for the account of the depository. ADR holders thus have no direct ownership interest in the shares and only have such rights as are contained in the deposit agreement. The custodian will also hold any additional securities, property and cash received on or in substitution for the deposited shares. The deposited shares and any such additional items are referred to as deposited securities.

Upon each deposit of shares, receipt of related delivery documentation and compliance with the other provisions of the deposit agreement, including the payment of the fees and charges of the depository and any taxes or other fees or charges owing, the depository will issue an ADR or ADRs in the name of the person entitled thereto evidencing the number of ADSs to which such person is entitled. Certificated ADRs will be delivered at the depository's principal New York office or any other location that it may designate as its transfer office.

When you turn in your ADRs at the depository's office, the depository will, upon payment of certain applicable fees, charges and taxes, and upon receipt of proper instructions, deliver the underlying shares in dematerialized form, for which the ADS holder will be required to open an account with a depository participant of the National Securities Depository Limited or Central Depository Services (India) Limited to hold and sell the shares in dematerialized form upon payment of customary fees and expenses. See "Description of Equity Shares" "Transfer of Shares."

The depository may only restrict the withdrawal of deposited securities in connection with:

temporary delays caused by closing our transfer books or those of the depository or the deposit of shares in connection with voting at a shareholders' meeting, or the payment of dividends;

the payment of fees, taxes and similar charges; or

compliance with any U.S. or foreign laws or governmental regulations relating to the ADRs or to the withdrawal of deposited securities.

This right of withdrawal may not be limited by any other provision of the deposit agreement.

Voting Rights

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You will have no voting rights with respect to the deposited equity shares. The depositary will abstain from exercising the voting rights of the deposited equity shares. Recently, the RBI examined the matter relating to the exercise of voting rights by the depositary and issued a circular dated February 5, 2007 pursuant to which we

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furnished to the RBI a copy of our agreement with the depository. We have also given an undertaking to the RBI stating that we will not give cognizance to voting by the depository if the vote given by the depository is in contravention of its agreement with us and that we or the depository will not bring about any change in our depository agreement without the prior approval of the RBI.

Equity shares which have been withdrawn from the depository facility and transferred on our register of shareholders to a person other than the depository or its nominee may be voted by that person. However, you may not receive sufficient advance notice of shareholder meetings to enable you to withdraw the underlying shares and vote at such meetings.

Record Dates

The depository may fix record dates for the determination of the ADR holders who will be entitled to receive a dividend, distribution or rights, subject to the provisions of the deposit agreement.

Reports and Other Communications

The depository will make available for inspection by ADR holders any written communications from us which are both received by the custodian or its nominee as a holder of deposited securities and made generally available to the holders of deposited securities. We will furnish these communications in English.

Additionally, if we make any written communications generally available to holders of our shares, including the depository or the custodian, and the depository or the custodian actually receives those written communications, the depository will mail copies of them, or, at its option, summaries of them to ADR holders.

Fees and Expenses

The depository will charge ADR holders a fee for each issuance of ADSs, including issuances resulting from distributions of shares, rights and other property, and for each surrender of ADSs in exchange for deposited securities. The fee in each case is U.S.\$5.00 for each 100 ADSs (or any portion thereof) issued or surrendered. The depository may also charge ADR holders or persons depositing shares:

stock transfer or other taxes and other governmental charges;

cable, telex and facsimile transmission and delivery charges incurred at your request;

transfer or registration fees for the registration of transfer of deposited securities on any applicable register in connection with the deposit or withdrawal of deposited securities; and

expenses of the depository in connection with the conversion of foreign currency into U.S. dollars. The fees described above may be amended from time to time.

Payment of Taxes

ADR holders must pay any tax or other governmental charge payable by the custodian or the depository on any ADS or ADR, deposited security or distribution. If an ADR holder owes any tax or other governmental charge, the depository may

deduct the amount thereof from any cash distributions, or

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sell deposited securities and deduct the amount owing from the net proceeds of such sale.

In either case the ADR holder remains liable for any shortfall. Additionally, if any tax or governmental charge is unpaid, the depositary may also refuse to effect any registration, registration of transfer, split-up or combination of deposited securities or withdrawal of deposited securities (except under limited circumstances mandated by securities regulations). If any tax or governmental charge is required to be withheld on any non-cash distribution, the depositary may sell the distributed property or securities to pay such taxes and distribute any remaining net proceeds to the ADR holders entitled to them.

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Reclassifications, Recapitalizations and Mergers

If we take certain actions that affect the deposited securities, including (1) any change in par value, split-up, consolidation, cancellation or other reclassification of deposited securities or (2) any recapitalization, reorganization, merger, consolidation, liquidation, receivership, bankruptcy or sale of all or substantially all of our assets, then the depositary may choose to:

amend the form of ADR;

distribute additional or amended ADRs;

distribute cash, securities or other property it has received in connection with such actions;

sell any securities or property received and distribute the proceeds as cash; or

take no action.

If the depositary does not choose any of the above options, any of the cash, securities or other property it receives will constitute part of the deposited securities and each ADS will then represent a proportionate interest in such property.

Amendment and Termination

We may agree with the depositary to amend the deposit agreement and the ADSs without your consent for any reason. ADR holders must be given at least 30 days' notice of any amendment that imposes or increases any fees or charges (other than stock transfer or other taxes and other governmental charges, transfer or registration fees, cable, telex or facsimile transmission costs, delivery costs or other such expenses), or affects any substantial existing right of ADR holders. If an ADR holder continues to hold an ADR or ADRs after being notified of these changes, the ADR holder is deemed to agree to such amendment. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an amendment can become effective before notice is given if this is necessary to ensure compliance with a new law, rule or regulation.

No amendment will impair your right to surrender your ADSs and receive the underlying securities. If a governmental body adopts new laws or rules which require the deposit agreement or the ADS to be amended, we and the depositary may make the necessary amendments, which could take effect before you receive notice thereof.

The depositary may terminate the deposit agreement by giving the ADR holders at least 30 days' prior notice, and it must do so at our request. After termination, the depositary's only responsibility will be (i) to deliver deposited securities to ADR holders who surrender their ADRs, and (ii) to hold or sell distributions received on deposited securities. As soon as practicable after the expiration of six months from the termination date, the depositary will sell the deposited securities which remain and hold the net proceeds of such sales, without liability for interest, in trust for the ADR holders who have not yet surrendered their ADRs. After making those sales, the depositary shall have no obligations except to account for such proceeds and other cash. The depositary will not be required to invest such proceeds or pay interest on them.

Limitations on Obligations and Liability to ADR Holders

The deposit agreement expressly limits the obligations and liability of the depositary, ourselves and our respective agents. Neither we nor the depositary nor any such agent will be liable if:

a change in law or regulation governing any deposited securities, act of God, war or other circumstance beyond its control shall prevent, delay or subject to any civil or criminal penalty any act which the deposit agreement or the ADRs provide shall be done or performed by it;

it exercises or fails to exercise discretion under the deposit agreement or the ADR;

it performs its obligations without gross negligence or bad faith;

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it takes any action or inaction in reliance upon the advice of or information from legal counsel, accountants, any person presenting shares for deposit, any registered holder of ADRs, or any other person believed by it to be competent to give such advice or information; or

it relies upon any written notice, request, direction or other document believed by it to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties.

Neither the depositary nor its agents have any obligation to appear in, prosecute or defend any action, suit or other proceeding in respect of any deposited securities or the ADRs. We and our agents shall only be obligated to appear in, prosecute or defend any action, suit or other proceeding in respect of any deposited securities or the ADRs, which in our opinion may involve us in expense or liability, if indemnity satisfactory to us against all expense (including fees and disbursements of counsel) and liability is furnished as often as we require.

The depositary will not be responsible for failing to carry out instructions to vote the deposited securities or for the manner in which the deposited securities are voted or the effect of the vote.

The depositary may own and deal in deposited securities and in ADSs.

Disclosure of Interest in ADSs

From time to time we may request you and other holders and beneficial owners of ADSs to provide information as to:

the capacity in which you and other holders and beneficial owners own or owned ADSs;

the identity of any other persons then or previously interested in such ADSs; and

the nature of such interest and various other matters.

You agree to provide any information requested by us or the depositary pursuant to the deposit agreement. The depositary has agreed to use reasonable efforts to comply with written instructions received from us requesting that it forward any such requests to you and other holders and beneficial owners and to forward to us any responses to such requests to the extent permitted by applicable law.

We may restrict transfers of the shares where any such transfer might result in ownership of shares in contravention of, or exceeding the limits under, the governmental approval which we received from the Indian government in connection with any offering, applicable law or our organizational documents. We also may instruct you that we are restricting the transfers of ADSs where such transfer may result in the total number of shares represented by the ADSs beneficially owned by you contravening or exceeding the limits under the applicable law or our organizational documents. We reserve the right to instruct you to deliver your ADSs for cancellation and withdrawal of the shares underlying such ADSs.

Requirements for Depositary Actions

We, the depositary or the custodian may refuse to:

issue, register or transfer an ADR or ADRs;

effect a split-up or combination of ADRs;

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deliver distributions on any such ADRs; or

permit the withdrawal of deposited securities (unless the deposit agreement provides otherwise), until the following conditions have been met:

the holder has paid all taxes, governmental charges and fees and expenses as required in the deposit agreement;

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the holder has provided the depository with any information it may deem necessary or proper, including, without limitation, proof of identity and the genuineness of any signature; and