Court No. - 16

Case :- GOVERNMENT APPEAL No. - 2162 of 2004

Appellant :- State of U.P.
Respondent :- Sarjoo Prasad And3 Ors.
Counsel for Appellant :- Ehtisham Hussain
Counsel for Respondent :- Jitendra Bahadur Singh

Hon'ble Shamim Ahmed,J.

Heard learned A.G.A. for the State and perused the material available on record.

The present leave to appeal under Section 378 Cr.P.C. has been filed against the judgment and order dated 02.06.2004 passed by the learned Second Additional Sessions Judge, Faizand in Session Trial No. 266 of 1998 (In re:- Crime No. 317 of 2097, P.S. Raunahi, Faizabad) by which the respondent no. 1 was acquitted fro the charges under Sections 308, 323, 506 of IPC and respondent nos. 2 to 4 were acquitted from the charges were acquitted from the charges u/S 308/34, 323/34 and 506 of IPC.

As per the prosecution version, on 07.06.1997, due to the enmity of litigation, the acused Sarojoo Prasad came outside the house of informant and the remaining accused persons kept hiding, and started abusing when the infromant side asked accused Sarjoo Prasad not to abuse then he started assaulting with lathi to Satya narain Tewari on this, brother of Satya narain Tewari started shouting for help, on this his daughter Km Umesh, Banwari and Shivadhal came there, in the mentime, the other co-accused who were hiding came out and they also assaulted the infromant side and due to this five persons from informant side were injured.

The learned trial court after taking into consideration the facts and circumstances of the case and evidence available on record, passed the judgment and order of acquittal dated 02.06.2004.

Learned A.G.A. for the State submits that the learned trial court did not appreciate the evidence on record. He further submits that prosecution has successfully proved the offence against the accused on the basis of evidence. The judgment was passed without considering the statement of witnesses and the case set up by the prosecution and the judgment of the acquittal was passed on surmises and conjectures.

I have heard the learned A.G.A. for the State and considered the ground as well as gone through the judgment passed by the learned trial court.

In the present case from the statements given by the witnesses produced by the prosecution, I found that prosecution has failed to establish that the crime in

question has been committed by the accused and there was no direct evidence produced by the prosecution regarding involvement of the respondent No.1 in the crime.

Further, learned A.G.A. for the State could not point out any illegality or infirmity in the judgment and order of acquittal passed in favour of respondent which is before this Court.

Further, this Court observed that an appeal against acquittal stands on a different footing from the appeal against conviction. Hon'ble the Apex Court in a very recent judgment in the case of **Sadhu Saran Singh Vs. State of Uttar Pradesh and Others** reported in **(2016) 4 SCC 357** has considered this difference and has observed in paragraph nos.20 and 21 as under:

> *"20. Generally, an appeal against acquittal has always been altogether on a different pedestal from that of an appeal against conviction. In an appeal against acquittal where the presumption of innocence in favour of the accused is reinforced, the appellate court would interfere with the order of acquittal only when there is perversity of fact and law. However, we believe that the paramount consideration of the Court is to do substantial justice and avoid miscarriage of justice which can raise by acquitting the accused who is guilty of an offence. A miscarriage of justice that may occur by the acquittal of the guilty is no less than from the conviction of an innocent. This Court, while enunciating the principles with regard to the scope of powers of the appellate court in an appeal against acquittal, in* ***Sambasiva V. State of Kerala 1998 SCC (Cri) 1320*** *has held:*
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> > *"7. The principles with regard to the scope of the powers of the appellate court in an appeal against acquittal, are well settled. The powers of the appellate court in an appeal against acquittal are no less than in an appeal against conviction. But where on the basis of evidence on record two views are reasonably possible the appellate court cannot substitute its view in the place of that of the trial court. It is only when the approach of the trial in acquitting an accused is found to be clearly erroneous in its consideration of evidence on record and in deducing conclusions therefrom that the appellate court can interfere with the order of acquittal."*
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> *21. The Court, in several cases, has taken the consistent view that the appellate court, while dealing with an appeal against acquittal, has no absolute restriction in law to review and relook the entire evidence on which the order of acquittal is founded. If the appellate court, on scrutiny, finds that the decision of the court below is based on erroneous views and against settled position of law, then the interference of the appellate court with such an order is imperative."*

In the light of the aforesaid guidelines, the impugned judgment has to be considered from the point of view whether the view taken by the learned trial court was a probable view based on the material on record or it is an absolutely erroneous judgment devoid of merits.

A criminal trial proceeds with the presumption of innocence of the accused persons. With the acquittal of the accused persons this presumption of innocence stands fortified. So very strong and cogent reasons must exist in interfering the judgment of acquittal.

Keeping in view the aforesaid weakness of the prosecution case, as noted by the learned trial court, I am of the view that the view taken by the learned trial court was a probable and logical view, which is based on valid reasons. The judgment of the learned trial court cannot be said to be illegal, illogical and improbable and not based on material on record or is based on erroneous views and is against the settled position of law. So, this Court is satisfied that there is absolutely no hope of success in this appeal and accordingly, no interference is called for.

Leave to appeal is refused.

Application for leave to appeal is **rejected.**

Accordingly, the appeal does not survive, and in view of above, the appeal is also **dismissed.**

No order as to costs.

Copy of this judgment be sent to the learned trial court for its compliance.

Order Date :- 6.8.2024
Anurag

Digitally signed by :-
ANURAG SINGH
High Court of Judicature at Allahabad,
Lucknow Bench