

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

Crl. Appeal D-141-DB of 2004
Date of Decision : July 11, 2017

Kamaljit Singh and others

.....Appellants

VERSUS

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE T.P.S. MANN
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU

Present : Mr. C.S.Jattana, Advocate
for the appellants.

Mr. Sandeep Vermani, Additional A.G., Punjab.

T.P.S. MANN, J.

Kamaljit Singh, Jangir Singh and Surjit Kaur have filed the instant appeal against the judgment and order dated 3.11.2003 passed by learned Additional Sessions Judge, Barnala whereby they were convicted and sentenced as under:-

- i) Kamaljit Singh convicted under Section 302 IPC whereas Jangir Singh and Surjit Kaur convicted under Sections 302/34 IPC and sentenced to undergo imprisonment for life and to pay a fine of Rs.5,000/- each and in default of payment of fine, to further undergo rigorous imprisonment for six months; and

- ii) All the appellants convicted under Section 498-A IPC and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for two years and to pay a fine of Rs.2,000/- each and in default of payment of fine, to further undergo rigorous imprisonment for three months.

All the sentences were ordered to run concurrently.

The period already spent by them in jail during investigation and trial was ordered to be set off against the sentence imposed.

According to the prosecution, Smt. Puja was married to Kamaljit Singh, about 1½ years back. Parents of Puja had given sufficient dowry, as per their status. Four months after the marriage, Kamaljit Singh, husband, Surjit Kaur, mother-in-law, and Jangir Singh, father-in-law, started taunting the complainant by saying that sufficient dowry as per their status was not brought. They started demanding a car. Puja replied that her parents are very poor and not in a position to provide a car. Kamaljit Singh, Surjit Kaur and Jangir Singh had poured acid on Puja but with the intervention of respectables, there was a compromise. Puja was dropped at her in-laws house. 4/5 months' earlier, Kamaljit Singh had demanded Rs. 20,000/- from the parents of Puja, but she replied that her parents are not in a position to pay the same. Then, Puja was thrown from the roof of his house by Kamaljit Singh. Again, with the intervention of the respectables, there was a compromise. On 15.10.02, Baljit Kaur,

mother of Puja, had gone to the house of Kamaljit Singh to give customary gifts of Dushehra. In the presence of her mother Baljit Kaur, Kamaljit Singh, Surjit Kaur and Jangir Singh gave beatings to Puja, but Baljit Kaur came back from Bhadaur, after making Puja to understand. At about 5/6 p.m., Kamaljit Singh had set Puja on fire after pouring kerosene on her. Surjit Kaur and Jangir Singh were present and continued to watch the action of Kamaljit Singh. Surjit Kaur and Jangir Singh did not try to rescue Puja. Puja was badly burnt. Then she was shifted to Civil Hospital, Bhadaur. As condition of Puja was critical, she was referred to Civil Hospital, Barnala. Smt Puja was set on fire by the accused for want of dowry. Statement of Puja was recorded by ASI Nazir Singh, in Civil Hospital, Barnala, on 16.10.2002 at about 8.45 AM. Statement was read over and explained to Puja, who had thumb marked the same in token of its correctness. Statement was also thumb marked by Ram Singh. Statement was sent to the Police Station, on the basis of which formal FIR was recorded at about 11.00 a.m. Special report was sent which was handed over to the Ilqa Magistrate at 2.20 p.m. on 16.10.02.

It is also the prosecution case that ASI Nazir Singh went to the spot and prepared rough site-plan. Stove, empty bottle of kerosene, match box and half burnt salwar alongwith some pieces of burnt clothes were recovered from the spot. Statements of the witnesses were recorded. The accused was

sought to be apprehended but they were not available. On 6.11.2002, on receipt of wireless message the police party went to Civil Hospital, Barnala where the dead body of Puja was lying in the dead house. Inquest was prepared. The dead body was, thereafter, sent for post-mortem. Offence under Section 304-B IPC was added.

It is further the case of the prosecution that on 19.10.2002 Mohan Lal and Surjit Singh produced the accused before Inspector Roop Singh and they were arrested. On 20.10.2002 accused were interrogated. Kamaljit Singh got recovered dowry articles lying at his residence, which were taken into possession. After completion of the investigation and presentation of challan followed by commitment of the case to the Court of Sessions, charge under Sections 302/34, 304-B and 498-A IPC was framed against the appellants, to which they pleaded not guilty and claimed trial.

In support of its case, the prosecution examined fourteen witnesses.

PW1 Dr. Raj Kumar, Medical Officer, CHC, Bhadaur deposed that on 15.10.2002, Puja was brought in burnt condition by Surjit Kaur at 8.30 p.m. She was having extensive burns. Hairs were burnt and so also face, front of chest, back, abdomen. After giving first aid, she was referred to Civil Hospital, Barnala. He sent intimation Ex.PB to Police Station Bhadaur regarding the

arrival of patient.

PW2 Dr. S.K.Garg, Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Barnala deposed that on 6.11.2002 Puja who was lying admitted in burnt condition expired at 7.40 a.m.

PW3 Dr. Suresh Kumar, Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Barnala deposed that on 15.11.2002, he conducted medico-legal examination of Puja, who was brought by Ram Singh son of Karnail Singh and noticed the following injuries on her person:-

“Superficial to deep burns present all over the body, except front of lower abdomen, perineum back of both thighs and whole of both lower legs and feet. Peeling of skin was present at places. Blackening was present at places. Hairs on front of head and eye brows were singed. Bristles were present at places. Burns were about 70%.”

Probable duration was within 12 hours and caused by flame burns. The injury was dangerous to life in the normal course of nature.

He also deposed that on police request Ex.PF, he had declared Puja fit to make statement vide his opinion Ex.PF/1. He further deposed that on the request of Shri Harish Anand, JMIC, Barnala, he had declared Puja fit to make her statement vide Ex.PG/1. He further opined that patient Puja remained conscious and mentally sound throughout the period her statement was recorded by the JMIC.

PW4 Dr. Harjinder Kaur, Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Barnala deposed that on 6.11.2002 at about 12.30 p.m., she conducted post-mortem on the dead body of Puja and found as under:-

“It was dead body of young female, moderately built and moderately nourished. Both eyes and mouth were closed. Rigor mortis was present in the neck and upper limbs. Post mortem staining was present on the back. Body was naked, having long black scalp hair. Axillary hairs were also present. At places some ointment was present.

Injury:

Dead body was having superficial to deep burns which were present on the whole body except at back of thighs, front of lower abdomen, perineum, whole of lower legs and feet.

At places there was scab formation, slough was present at places on the arms and chest. On the back there was present, wound in an area of 8 cm x 5 cm x skin deep on the left gluteal region. Pus was present in the wound, as well as at places on the burnt area.

Scalp and skull was healthy. Membranes and brain were healthy and congested. In the thorax, walls ribs and cartilages were healthy. Pleura, larynx and trachea and both the lungs were healthy and congested. Pericardium was healthy. In the heart right side was full of blood and left side

was empty and healthy. In the abdomen, walls peritoneum, mouth, pharynx and esophagus were healthy. Stomach was empty. Small intestine and their contents were healthy and containing intestinal juices. Large intestine was also healthy and contained intestinal gases. Liver, spleen and kidneys were healthy. Bladder was healthy and empty. External and internal organs of generation were well developed. Female sex organs were present.”

Death in his opinion was due to septicemia as a result of extensive burns, which were sufficient to cause death in the ordinary course of nature. The burns were ante mortem in nature. Probable time that elapsed between injuries and death could not be ascertained and between death and post-mortem was more two hours and less than twelve hours.

PW5 Ram Singh, father of deceased-Puja, deposed that Puja was his eldest daughter, who was married on 13.4.2001 with Kamaljit Singh. At the time of her marriage, dowry was given by him. The dowry included clothes, jewellery and household articles. About four months after the marriage, Kamaljit Singh, Surjit Kaur and Jangir Singh started taunting her that she had brought insufficient dowry. They were not happy with the dowry given by him. She was asked by the accused that she should bring a car. Puja told him about the same. He alongwith his brother-in-law Natha Singh and wife Baljit Kaur went to the house

of Jangir Singh and told the accused that he was unable to give the car as he was a poor person and father of three more daughters. The accused, however, did not pay any heed to his requests. About four months, thereafter, all the accused put acid on Puja. However, he did not lodge any report of that incident as he was having other daughters who were yet to be married. The respectables of Barnala got effected a compromise and Puja was sent to the house of her in-laws. One year ago, the accused demanded a sum of Rs. 20,000/- from Puja, who told him about the same. He told about this to his brother-in-law Natha Singh. Being a poor person, he could not meet even this demand of the accused. Puja was thrown from the roof of the house by the accused. He, Natha Singh and his wife again went to the house of the accused. At that time, Avtar Singh was also with them. The respectables of Bhadaur, however, intervened and got the compromise effected. He prevailed upon Puja and she was left in the house of her in-laws. The accused used to taunt her and also beat her for bringing insufficient dowry. On the day of Dushehra in the year 2002, his wife went to the house of the accused to give customary gifts. In the presence of his wife, all the accused gave beatings to Puja. His wife, however, prevailed upon Puja and left her in the house of her in-laws. On coming back, she told him about the incident. On the day of Dushehra at 6.30 p.m., he received a call on telephone from Kamaljit Singh, who stated that

Puja was lying burnt and they should take her alongwith them. He told his wife about the message received by him. He alongwith his wife and 15/16 persons of Mohalla went to the house of accused at Bhadaur where they came to know that Puja had been taken to C.H.C., Bhadaur. They went to C.H.C., Bhadaur and brought Puja to Civil Hospital, Barnala on the advice of the doctor. Puja told him in Civil Hospital, Barnala that as she did not meet the demand of the accused, therefore, on that day her husband Kamaljit Singh, father-in-law Jangir Singh and mother-in-law Surjit Kaur had poured kerosene upon her and set her ablaze. He made statement before the police and also handed over the photograph Ex.PL and photocopy of the list of articles mark A to the police.

PW6 Baljit Kaur, wife of Ram Singh and mother of the deceased corroborated the statement of her husband.

PW7 Shri Harish Anand, JMJC, Barnala deposed that on 16.10.2002 application Ex. PM was moved before him by ASI Nazir Singh for recording the statement of Puja, who was expecting death any time. He made endorsement Ex.PG on the said application after reaching Ciivil Hospital, Barnala. He sought the opinion of the Medical Officer about fitness of Puja to make statement. The doctor vide endorsement Ex.PG/1 opined that she was fit to make the statement. Puja was found admitted in a ward of the hospital. He went to the ward and sent out all the

persons who were near her body and recorded statement Ex.PG/2 of Puja. Before recording the statement of Puja, he had satisfied himself that she was in a fit state of mind and conscious to make statement. He also satisfied himself by putting questions that she wanted to make statement voluntarily and without any pressure or allurements. During the time, he was recording the statement of Puja, she remained in fit state of mind and conscious. Dr. Suresh Kumar remained present there throughout during the course of recording the statement of Puja. After recording the statement of Puja, he read it over and explained to her. Dr. Suresh Kumar appended his signatures at the bottom of statement Ex.PG/2 that Puja remained conscious and mentally sound throughout the period of her making statement. The thumb impression of Puja was obtained on her statement which is Ex.PG/3. He then appended his signatures Ex.PG/4 to the effect that Puja remained conscious and he recorded her statement which was explained to her that her statement may be used as evidence. She made the statement voluntarily. It contained full and true account of the statement made by her.

PW8 ASI Nazir Singh deposed that on 15.10.2002 at about 9.05 p.m., a ruqa was received from CHC, Bhadaur regarding the arrival of Puja in burnt condition. On the same night at 11.20 p.m. a telephonic message was also received from Police Station Kotwali, Barnala regarding the admission of Puja

in the hospital. On account of Dushehra duty and they all were in the field, he could not go to the hospital. On 16.10.2002, he went to Civil Hospital, Barnala and moved application Ex.PF before the doctor. The Medical Officer declared Puja fit to make statement vide his opinion Ex.PF/1. He recorded statement Ex.PN of Puja correctly without any addition or omission. He read over and explained the statement to Puja. After admitting the same to be correct, she thumb marked her statement. Ram Singh, father of Puja was present there and the statement was got attested from him also. He recorded the police proceedings Ex.PN/1. The statement was sent to Police Station Bhadaur and on its basis FIR Ex.PN/2 was recorded. He then came to the Court of Shri Harish Anand, JMIC and moved application Ex. PM for recording the dying declaration of Puja. He accompanied him to Civil Hospital, Barnala and came to know that he had recorded the dying declaration of Puja. He also recorded the statements of Baljit Kaur and others. He further deposed that he alongwith police party went to the house of Kamaljit Singh-accused accompanied by Ram Singh and Avtar Singh. He inspected the spot and prepared rough site-plan Ex.PO. One stove, one empty bottle smelling of kerosene, one match box, pieces of burnt clothes and one salwar in burnt condition were taken into possession. He recorded the statements of the recovery witnesses. He searched for the accused but they were not found

available.

PW9 Dev Raj, Draftsman proved the scaled plan Ex.PR prepared by him at the instance of Ram. Singh.

PW10 HC Balbir Singh testified that on 15.10.2002 ruqa Ex.PB was received from CHC, Bhadaur wherein it was stated that Puja in burnt condition was admitted in CHC Bhadaur. It was also referred therein that she had been referred to Civil Hospital, Barnala. He had received ruqa at 9.05 p.m. At that time, the SHO was not present in the Police Station as he had gone on Dushehra duty. He recorded DDR No.20 dated 15.10.2002 in this regard. At 11.20 p.m., a message on telephone was received from Police Station Kotwali, Barnala that a ruqa had been received from Civil Hospital, Barnala about admission of Puja in burnt condition. At that time, the Investigating Officer and the SHO were not present in the Police station.

PW11 Avtar Singh son of Mohinder Singh, whose house was situated near the house of Ram Singh-complainant testified that he knew Puja, who was married to Kamaljit Singh on 13.4.2001. At the time of marriage, one gold ring was given to Jangir Singh-accused while another gold ring to Surjit Kaur-accused. Two pairs of gold ear rings were given to Puja-deceased. Kamaljit Singh was also given a wrist watch. One ceiling fan, one box and the articles of daily use in the house and

furniture was also given at the time of marriage. After 3 to 4 months of the marriage, the accused started quarelling with Puja by telling her to bring money from her parents as they wanted to purchase a car. When Puja showed her inability to bring the car, she was harassed, tortured and beaten. He was told about the incident by Ram Singh, father of Puja. On the night of Dushehra, Ram Singh, father of Puja came and informed him that a telephonic call had been received from Bhadaur that Puja had sustained burn injuries. He, Ram Singh, Baljit Kaur wife of Ram Singh and 5 to 7 more persons went to the house of the accused at Bhadaur from where they went to CHC Bhadaur. The doctor told them that Puja had been referred to Civil Hospital, Barnala. They went to Civil Hospital, Barnala and Puja was also brought there from CHC Bhadaur. The police came to Civil Hospital, Barnala. The police then took him and Ram Singh to the house of accused at Bhadaur. In his presence, stove Ex.P1, one empty bottle Ex.P2 and match box Ex.P3 were lifted from the spot and taken into possession. He also deposed that burnt pieces of cloth and one salwar Ex.P4 were also taken into possession by the police.

PW12 Inspector Roop Singh testified that on 17.10.2002, he took over the investigation of the case and verified the investigation, finding the same to be correct. He searched for the accused but they were not found available. On

19.10.2002, when he was present in Police Station Bhadaur, Mohan Lal Ex Municipal Councillor and Surjit Singh, Numberdar produced the accused and they were arrested. On 20.10.2002, he interrogated all the accused. Kamaljit Singh-accused took the police party to his house at Bhadaur and got recovered the articles of Ishtridan i.e. one iron box Ex.P-5, table fan Ex.P-6, Mixi Ex.P-7, iron press Ex.P-8, wooden table Ex.P-9, two iron chairs Ex.P-10 and Ex.P-11, double bed Ex.P-12, dinner set Ex.P-13, sakanjvi set Ex.P-14, two tiffin boxes Ex.P-15 and Ex.P-16, five complete bedings Ex.P-17 to Ex.P-21, 11 ladies suits belonging to deceased Puja Ex.P-22 to Ex.P-32, other 10 lady suits Ex.P-33 to Ex.P-42, utensils Ex.P-43 to Ex.P-143, one lady shoes Ex.P-144 and one wrist watch Ex.P-145.

PW13 Sarabjit Singh, Photographer deposed that on 13.4.2001, he took photographs of the marriage of Puja and Kamaljit Singh. The marriage was solemnized by way of chuni ceremony.

PW14 ASI Randhir Singh testified that on 6.11.2002 after receipt of ruqa Ex. PG from Civil Hospital, Barnala, he went to the hospital where dead body was lying in the dead house. He inspected the dead body and prepared inquest. The dead body was, thereafter, sent for post-mortem. He also deposed that he reached Police Station Bhadaur and informed about the case to the SHO and, accordingly, offence under Section 304-B IPC was

added.

When examined under Section 313 Cr.P.C., all the accused denied the prosecution allegations and stated that the marriage was without dowry and no demand of dowry was raised. After the marriage, none of them harassed or tortured Puja for demand of any dowry. They stated that they were not present at the house at the time of the occurrence. They had not murdered the deceased. Puja was not murdered by them. False case was registered against them. Mother of Puja did not visit the house of the accused on the day of the incident.

In their defence, the accused did not lead any evidence.

After hearing learned counsel for the parties and on going through the record, learned trial Court convicted and sentenced the appellants, as mentioned above.

This Court has heard learned counsel for the appellants, learned State counsel and also perused the evidence with their able assistance.

According to the prosecution, at the time of marriage of the deceased with Kamaljit Singh, dowry was given which included clothes, jewellery and household articles. About four months after the marriage, all the appellants started taunting the deceased for bringing inadequate dowry and they were not happy with what was given in the dowry. They, accordingly, asked the

deceased to bring money for purchasing a car from her parents. However, as the parents of the deceased were poor and the deceased had three other sisters, who were yet to be married, the parents of the deceased expressed their inability in meeting their demand. The parents of the deceased also went to her matrimonial home and pleaded with the appellants that they were not in a position to give money for the car. However, they did not pay any heed to their requests. About four months later, the appellants poured acid on the deceased but the matter was not brought to the notice of the police as it was amicably settled. A year later, the appellants demanded a sum of Rs.20,000/- from the deceased but the parents of the deceased were not in a position to meet even the said demand of the appellants. The appellants even threw the deceased from the roof of the house but again the matter was not played up and settled at the family level. On the day of Dushehra in the year 2002 when the mother of the deceased went to her matrimonial home to give customary gifts the appellants gave beatings to the deceased. Same day in the evening, Kamaljit Singh-appellant set the deceased on fire by pouring kerosene. At that time, Surjit Kaur and Jangir Singh-appellants were also present and continued to watch the action of Kamaljit Singh. So much so, no attempt was made by them to rescue the deceased, who was badly burnt. About three weeks later, the deceased succumbed to the injuries received by her.

After the incident, which had taken place on 15.10.2002, which was Dushehra day, the deceased was first taken to CHC Bhadaur where she was medico-legally examined but as her condition was critical, she was referred to Civil Hospital, Barnala. On receipt of ruqa from CHC Bhadaur followed by a telephonic message from Police Station Kotwali, Barnala, ASI Nazir Singh initially could not go to the hospital as it was Dushehra day and all of them were in the field. On the following day, ASI Nazir Singh went to Civil Hospital, Barnala where after obtaining the opinion of the doctor finding her fit to make statement, recorded her detailed statement Ex.PN. He read over and explained the statement to Puja, who thumb marked the same. At that time, Ram Singh, father of Puja was also present and, accordingly, the statement was got attested from him as well. This was followed by ASI Nazir Singh going to the Court of Sh.Harish Anand, JMIC and moved application Ex.PM for recording dying declaration of Puja. The JMIC then went to Civil Hospital, Barnala and found Puja admitted in a ward. He went to the ward and sent out all those, who were near Puja and recorded statement Ex.PG/2 of Puja. Before recording the statement, he had satisfied himself that she was in a fit state of mind and conscious to make statement. He also satisfied himself by putting questions that she wanted to make statement voluntarily and without any pressure or allurement. Till the time, he was

recording the statement of Puja, she remained in a fit state of mind and conscious. While the statement of Puja was being recorded, Dr. Suresh Kumar remained present. After recording the statement, the Magistrate read over and explained the same to Puja, who put her thumb impression on the same. Dr. Suresh Kumar also appended his signatures at the bottom of statement Ex.PG/2 that Puja remained conscious and mentally sound throughout the period of her making statement.

According to the defence, statement Ex.PF/2 made by Puja before ASI Nazir Singh is of no relevance as at the time of its recording, Ram Singh, father of Puja was also present. However, merely because the father of the deceased was present at the time the statement of the victim was being recorded by ASI Nazir Singh is no ground to reject the same. In fact, it lends credibility to the presence of Ram Singh with the victim immediately after the incident. Even if statement Ex.PN is ruled out for the aforementioned reason, still there is another dying declaration of Puja which is available on the record by way of testimony of PW7 Sh. Harish Anand, JMIC, Barnala, who had reached the hospital and after obtaining opinion from the attending doctor about her fitness to make the statement, recorded her statement Ex.PG/2. After the conclusion of the said statement, the attending doctor as well as the JMIC had made endorsement that Puja had remained fit throughout the period her

statement was being recorded. Before recording of her statement, Sh. Harish Anand, JMIC had sent out all the persons, who were near her. As such, the said statement which after the death of Puja had assumed the nature of dying declaration can safely be relied upon.

According to the defence, it was Surjit Kaur-appellant, who had brought Puja to the hospital and despite being informed about the incident, Ram Singh, father of Puja-deceased made no attempt to rush to the hospital. It is true that it was Surjit Kaur-appellant, who after the incident had removed Puja to CHC Bhadaur as deposed to by PW1 Dr. Raj Kumar. However, at the same time, PW3 Dr. Suresh Kumar, Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Barnala testified that after being referred from CHC Bhadaur, Puja was brought to Civil Hospital, Barnala by her father Ram Singh. The presence of Ram Singh, as mentioned above, is also reflected in the initial dying declaration made by Puja before PW8 ASI Nazir Singh. As such, it cannot be accepted that the parents of the deceased made no attempt to take the victim to the hospital.

As regards the delay in the lodging of the FIR, suffice it to mention that the occurrence had taken place on 15.10.2002 at about 5/6.00 p.m. in the house of the appellants at Bhadaur. Immediately after the incident, Puja was rushed to CHC Bhadaur. A ruqa was, thereafter, sent by PW1 Dr. Raj Kumar regarding the

arrival of Puja. As the condition of Puja was critical, she was referred to Civil Hospital, Barnala where she was admitted by PW2 Dr. S.K.Garg. It was PW3 Dr. Suresh Kumar, who had medico-legally examined Puja after she was brought by her father Ram Singh. She was found to have superficial to deep burns which were 70%. It being a day of Dushehra and the police officials were out in the area, no attempt was made by any police official to reach Civil Hospital, Barnala for recording her statement. It was only on the following day i.e. 16.10.2002 at 8.45 a.m. that PW8 ASI Nazir Singh recorded statement Ex.PN of Puja and on its basis FIR Ex.PN/2 was registered at Police Station Bhadaur at 10.05 a.m. Special report was sent and received by the Ilaqa Magistrate on 16.10.2002 at 2.20 p.m. From the chronology of events, as mentioned above, this Court finds that there was no inordinate delay in the lodging of the FIR. Whatever delay occurred has been satisfactorily explained.

Another grievance of the appellants is that Jangir Singh and Surjit Kaur-appellants, parents of Kamaljit Singh-appellant, were not attributed any overtact in the commission of the crime and, therefore, they deserve to be granted the benefit of doubt.

It is true that neither Surjit Kaur, mother-in-law of deceased nor Jangir Singh, father-in-law of the deceased had made any attempt to intervene or rescue Puja, who was badly

burnt when Kamaljit Singh, husband of the deceased had poured kerosene on Puja and set her on fire. However, going by the past conduct of Jangir Singh and Surjit Kaur of initially demanding a car and subsequently the amount of Rs.20,000/- besides pouring of acid upon the deceased and giving of beatings to Puja when Baljit Kaur, mother of Puja went to the house of Kamaljit Singh to give customary gifts, the part and participation of Jangir Singh and Surjit Kaur stood duly explained. In case, they had no guilty mind, they ought to have first restrained their son Kamaljit Singh from putting Puja on fire or to rescue her after she had received burn injuries. Merely because Surjit Kaur was the one, who had taken Puja to CHC, Bhadaur is no ground to hold that the said act absolved her from criminal liability.

In view of the above, no case is made out for any interference in the impugned judgment of conviction and sentence passed by the learned trial Court.

The appeal is devoid of any merit and, therefore, dismissed.

(T.P.S. MANN)
JUDGE

July 11, 2017
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(MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned.	:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable.	:	Yes/No