

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

Criminal Misc. No.M- 30375 of 2017 (O&M)

Date of decision : December 21, 2017

Sukhjeet Singh and others

.....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another

....Respondents

CORAM:- HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE LISA GILL

Present: Mr. Kanwaljeet Singh Derabassi, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Saurav Khurana, DAG, Punjab.

Ms. Harpreet Kaur Arora, Advocate
for respondent No. 2.

LISA GILL, J.

Prayer in this petition is for quashing of FIR No. 241 dated 12.06.2013 under Sections 406/498A IPC registered at Police Station Zirakpur, District SAS Nagar and all other consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of a compromise arrived at between the parties.

The abovesaid FIR was registered at the instance of respondent No.2 due to matrimonial discord with her husband i.e., petitioner No.1. Petition under Section 13B of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 ('the Act' – for short), it is submitted, has been filed. Statements of the parties at first motion have been recorded. Part of the settled amount has been handed over to respondent No. 2. The petitioner undertakes to remit the balance amount on 04.01.2018 at the time of recording of their statements at second

motion.

This Court on 28.09.2017 directed the parties to appear before learned trial court for recording their statements in respect to the above-mentioned compromise. Learned trial court was directed to submit a report regarding the genuineness of the compromise, as to whether it has been arrived at out of the free will and volition of the parties without any coercion, fear or undue influence. Learned trial court was also directed to intimate whether any of the petitioners are absconding/proclaimed offenders and whether any other case is pending against them. Information was sought as to whether all affected persons are a party to the settlement.

Pursuant to order dated 28.09.2017, the parties appeared before the learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Dera Bassi and their statements were recorded on 03.11.2017. The complainant - respondent No.2 stated that the matter has been amicably resolved by her with all the petitioners out of her own free will, without any pressure, undue influence, coercion, inducement, threat or promise. Pendency of petition under Section 13 B of the Act is mentioned. It is stated that in respect to the settlement, statements of the parties were recorded in the proceedings under Section 125 Cr.P.C. as well. Respondent No.2 stated that she has no objection to the quashing of the abovesaid FIR qua the petitioners. Statements of the petitioners in respect to the compromise were also recorded.

As per report dated 03.11.2017 received from the learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Dera Bassi, satisfaction is expressed that compromise between the parties is genuine, voluntary, arrived at out of free will of the parties, without any coercion, undue influence or pressure. None of the petitioners is reported to be a proclaimed offender. Statements of the

parties are appended alongwith the said report.

Learned counsel for respondent No.2 reaffirms and verifies the factum of settlement between the parties. It is reiterated that respondent No.2 has no objection to the quashing of the abovementioned FIR subject to strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the settlement by the petitioners.

Learned counsel for the State submits that as the abovesaid FIR arises out of a matrimonial dispute, the State has no objection to the quashing of this FIR on the basis of a settlement arrived at between the parties.

In **Kulwinder Singh and others versus State of Punjab and another** 2007 (3) R.C.R. (Criminal) 1052, a five member Bench of this Court has observed as under:-

“The compromise, in a modern society, is the sine qua non of harmony and orderly behaviour. It is the soul of justice and if the power under Section 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code is used to enhance such a compromise which, in turn, enhances the social amity and reduces friction, then it truly is “finest hour of justice”.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in **B.S.Joshi and others v. State of Haryana, 2003(4) SCC 675** has observed that it becomes the duty of the Court to encourage genuine settlements of matrimonial disputes.

Keeping in view the facts and circumstances of this case, it would be in the interest of justice to quash the abovesaid FIR as no useful purpose would be served by continuance of the present proceedings. It will merely lead to wastage of precious time of the court and would be an exercise in futility.

This petition is, thus, allowed and FIR No. 241 dated

12.06.2013 under Sections 406/498A IPC registered at Police Station Zirakpur, District SAS Nagar alongwith all consequential proceedings are, hereby, quashed.

However, liberty is afforded to respondent No.2 to file necessary application for revival of the proceedings in the above said FIR, in case the terms and conditions of settlement between the parties are not adhered to by the petitioner(s) or it is found that the settlement was a mere ruse to have the aforesaid FIR quashed.

December 21, 2017
rts

(Lisa Gill)
Judge

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No