

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.15968 of 2018

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Jainendra Ram @ Jayendra Paswan, Son of Aliyar Ram, Resident of village – Navadih, Police Station – Indrapuri, District – Rohtas.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

1. The State Of Bihar through the Principal Secretary, Department of Excise, Government of Bihar, Patna.
2. The District Magistrate, Rohtas at Sasaram.
3. The Superintendent of Police, Rohtas at Dehri-on-Sone.
4. The District Excise Officer, Rohtas at Sasaram.
5. The S.H.O. Dehri (T) Police Station, District – Rohtas.

... .. Respondent/s

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Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s : Mr. Rajani Kant Singh, Advocate
For the Respondent/s : Mr. Kumar Manish - SC 5

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CORAM: HONOURABLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

and

HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE S. KUMAR

ORAL ORDER

(Per: HONOURABLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE)

2 10-08-2018 Petitioner has filed this writ petition challenging the confiscation proceedings initiated against him or proposed to be initiated against him, so also seizure of his vehicle Bajaj Platina Motorcycle, seized in connection with Dehri (Indrapuri) Police Station Case No. 02 of 2018.

It is the case of the petitioner that the only allegation against the petitioner and the case registered under the Bihar Excise and Prohibition Act, 2016 is with regard to the petitioner driving the vehicle in a drunken condition. It is emphasized that under Section 56 of the Bihar Excise and Prohibition Act, 2016, when the vehicle in question is not being used for transportation or carrying of any liquor, seizure



or confiscation of the vehicle is not permissible. Considering similar arguments, we had held in C.W.J.C.No.13162 of 2018 and earlier also in the case of Diwakar Kumar Singh Vs. The State of Bihar & Ors. (C.W.J.C. No.5049 of 2018) that under Section 56 of the Act when the only allegation against a person is that he is found to be driving a vehicle or plying it on a public place in a drunken condition, the provisions of Section 56 is not applicable and confiscation and seizure of such a vehicle is not permissible under the Bihar Excise and Prohibition Act, 2016.

Accordingly, in view of the above, we allow this application, quash the confiscation proceedings, permit the respondents to proceed to prosecute the applicant, namely Jainendra Ram for being or driving in a drunken condition.

Accordingly, confiscation of the vehicle shall stand quashed and vehicle released to the petitioner, if not required in any other case.

(Dr. Ravi Ranjan, ACJ)

(S. Kumar, J)

K.C.Jha/Uma/-

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