

HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE U.DURGA PRASAD RAO

I.A.No.1 of 2018 in Crl.P.No.14791 of 2016 & Crl.P.No.14791 of 2016
and
I.A.No.2 of 2018 in Crl.P.No.14794 of 2016 & Crl.P.No.14794 of 2016

COMMON ORDER:

Crl.P.No.14791 of 2016 is filed by petitioners/A2 to A4 and Crl.P.No.14794 of 2016 is filed by petitioner/A1.

2) The *defacto* complainant and her counsel Smt. A.B.Lalitha Gayathri are present. Petitioners/A1 to A4 and their counsel Pillix Law Firm are present. Both the parties are identified by their respective counsel.

3) Heard both sides and perused the petitions.

4) The *defacto* complainant filed a complaint and the same was registered as Crime No.156 of 2016 of Woman Police Station, Guntur Urban for the offences under Sections 498A IPC and Sections 3 and 4 of Dowry Prohibition Act (for short "DP Act") and after investigation charge sheet was filed against A1 to A4 and case was registered as C.C.No.345 of 2016 on the file of Special Judicial First Class Magistrate for Prohibition & Excise, Guntur.

5) At this stage, petitioners/Accused Nos.2 to 4 filed Crl.P.No.14791 of 2016 and A1 filed Crl.P.No.14794 of 2016 before this Court to quash the proceedings against them in C.C.No.345 of 2016.

6) When the matter is pending, both parties filed I.A.No.1 of 2018 in CrI.P.No.14791 of 2016 and I.A.No.2 of 2018 in CrI.P.No.14794 of 2016 seeking permission of this Court to compound the offence. In the said petitions, it was mentioned that both parties have amicably settled all their disputes at the intervention of elders and all the cases pending between them were already settled. They would submit that in view of settling all their disputes at the intervention of elders, they are proposing to compound the offences involved in C.C.No.345 of 2016 also and hence permission may be granted to them.

7) On enquiry by this Court, both the parties affirmed the contents in joint memo. The offences alleged in C.C.No.345 of 2016 are under Sections 498A IPC and Sections 3 & 4 of DP Act. Section 498A IPC is compoundable under Section 320(2) Cr.P.C i.e, with the permission of the Court vide Andhra Pradesh State Amendment Act 11 of 2003, Section 2 w.e.f. 01.08.2003. So far as Sections 3 and 4 of D.P.Act are concerned, they are non-compoundable under Section 320 Cr.P.C. However, in *Manohar Singh vs. State of Madhya Pradesh and another*¹, the Apex Court while dealing with the question as to the compoundability of the offences under Section 498A IPC and Section 4 of D.P.Act, after referring several decisions observed that though Section 498A IPC and Section 4 of the D.P. Act were not compoundable, however, if there is a genuine compromise between husband and wife, criminal complaints arising out of matrimonial

¹ (2014) 13 SCC 75

discord can be quashed, even if the offences alleged therein are non-compoundable, because such offences are personal in nature and do not have repercussions on the society unlike heinous offences like murder, rape, etc. If the High Court forms an opinion that it is necessary to quash the proceedings to prevent abuse of the process of any Court or to secure the ends of justice, the High Court can do so.

8) In the light of the exposition of the Hon'ble Apex Court, when the case on hand is vetted, Section 498A IPC is compoundable under Section 320 (2) Cr.P.C after lapse of a minimum period of three months from the date of request or application for compromise is made before a Court. In the instant case, the said period is not completed. However, in *Manohar Singh's* case (1 supra), the Apex Court held that exercising power under Section 482 of the Code is not inhibited by Section 320 of the Code. Therefore and in view of parties have genuinely settled all their disputes and no additional purpose will be served by keeping them awaited for three months, the said requirement is dispensed with. Similarly, exercising the plenary power under Section 482 of the Code, the offences under Sections 3 and 4 of the D.P.Act, though not compoundable, are permitted to be compounded. It shall be noted, the instant case is a matrimonial dispute and purely a private one and the same has no impact on the society. Further, from the submission of both the parties, they have settled all their disputes and pending cases at the intervention of elders.

9) With the above observations, I.A.No.1 of 2018 in CrI.P.No.14791 of 2016 and I.A.No.2 of 2018 in CrI.P.No.14794 of 2016 are allowed and the parties are permitted to compound the offences involved in C.C.No.345 of 2016 on the file of Special Judicial First Class Magistrate for Prohibition and Excise, Guntur. Consequently, the Criminal Petition Nos.14791 and 14794 of 2016 are allowed and the proceedings in C.C.No.345 of 2016 are quashed against petitioners/A1 to A4 are concerned and they are acquitted of the offences for which they have been charged.

As a sequel, miscellaneous petitions pending, if any, shall stand closed.

Date: 23.04.2018
Murthy

U.DURGA PRASAD RAO, J

