

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

Criminal Misc. No.M- 29858 of 2017 (O&M)

Date of decision : February 07, 2018

Manjit Singh and others

.....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another

....Respondents

CORAM:- HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE LISA GILL

Present: Mr. Gautam Kaile, Advocate for
Mr. Inderjit Sharma, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Jasdeep Singh Walia, Sr. DAG, Punjab

Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Bawa, Advocate
for respondent No.2.

LISA GILL, J.

Prayer in this petition is for quashing of FIR No. 44 dated 13.08.2013 under Sections 498A, 406 IPC registered at Police Station Women Cell Bathinda, District Bathinda alongwith 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. It is informed that petition under Section 13B of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 ('the Act' – for short) has been filed by petitioner No. 1 and respondent No. 2. Their statements at first motion have been recorded and the matter is now fixed for 14.02.2018 for recording of their statements at second motion.

Learned counsel for respondent No. 2 submits that the entire settled amount

has since been received by respondent No. 2 and she has no objection to the quashing of the aforesaid FIR.

This Court on 03.11.2017 directed the parties to appear before learned trial court/Illaq Magistrate for recording their statements in respect to the above-mentioned compromise. Learned trial court/Illaq Magistrate 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/Illaq Magistrate 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 03.11.2017, the parties appeared before the learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Bathinda and their statements were recorded on 30.11.2017. Respondent No. 2 stated that she has compromised the matter with all the accused persons with the intervention of relatives and friends. Settlement has been arrived at out of her own free will. It is stated that petition under Section 13B of the Act has been filed, which is pending for 14.02.2018 and she has received all the dowry articles including the entire settled amount from petitioner No. 1. Nothing remains due from any of the petitioners. 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 30.11.2017 received from the learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Bathinda, satisfaction is expressed that the

compromise between the parties is genuine, voluntary, arrived at out of the free will of the parties, without any coercion or undue influence. 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 against 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. 44 dated 13.08.2013 under Sections 498A, 406 IPC registered at Police Station Women Cell Bathinda, District Bathinda alongwith all consequential proceedings are, hereby, quashed.

February 07, 2018

rts

(Lisa Gill)
Judge

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No