

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

**F.A.O No. 3597 of 2009
Date of decision:- 25.09.2019**

Harmail Singh and anr.

...Appellants

Versus

Mandeep Singh & ors.

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE RITU BAHRI

Present:- Mr. Ashok K. Jindal, Advocate
for the appellants

Mr. Pardeep Goyal, Advocate
for respondent No. 3

RITU BAHRI J. (Oral)

1. The present appeal has been preferred by the claimants-appellants, seeking enhancement of the amount of compensation awarded by the learned Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Bathinda (for short, 'the Tribunal') to the tune of Rs.04,75,000/- vide impugned award dated 30.03.2009 on account of death of Jatinder Pal Singh.

2. As per claimants, on 01.12.2005, Jatinder Pal Singh (since deceased) along with Harpreet Singh was going from Hanuman Mandir side to Sector 71, Mohali on motor cycle bearing registration No. PB-69-2050 driven by Jatinder Pal Singh. When they reached near Dr. Ambedkar Chownk, in the revenue limits of Police Station Mohali, a Toyota Qualis No. CH-02-T-1188 came from Bhambra Chownk side, which was being driven by respondent No. 1, struck against the motorcycle of the deceased.

Due to the impact, the deceased sustained grievous injuries. He was admitted to Fortis Hospital, Mohali for 42 days and he died on 12.01.2006.

F.I.R No. (Ex A6) was registered against respondent No. 1 on the statement of Harpreet Singh.

3. While assessing compensation, the Tribunal awarded lumpsum amount of Rs.4,75,000/- (i.eRs.4,50,000 towards medical expenses and Rs.25,000/- towards funeral expenses.

4. The learned counsel for the claimants-appellants contends that the compensation awarded by the learned Tribunal is on the lower side and deserves to be enhanced, as the Tribunal has not applied the multiplier method. No future prospects have been given.

5. On the other hand, the learned counsel for the respondent-driver has vehemently opposed the present appeal.

6. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the record.

7. It is not in dispute between the parties that the accident had taken place, as the accident had been duly proved by the claimants/appellants. Further the deceased was a first year student of Engineering. So the appellants are entitled for compensation and the age of the deceased can be taken at 19 years. The income of the deceased can be taken to be that of a skilled labourer at Rs.5000/- per month.

8. Further the parents are also entitled for compensation of Rs.40,000/- each under the head of loss of filial consortium, in view of judgment of Hon'ble the Supreme Court of India in a case of ***Magma General Insurance Co. Ltd vs Nanu Ram Alias Chuhru Ram, 2018 (4) RCR Civil 837*** .

8. Reference at this stage can be made to a recent judgment of Hon'ble the Supreme Court of India in a case of ***National Insurance***

Company Ltd vs. Pranay Sethi and others, passed in Spl Leave Petition (Civil) No. 25590 of 2014, decided on October 31, 2017 wherein the issue with regard to awarding of amount under the conventional heads has been authoritatively decided, while observing as under :-

“54. As far as the conventional heads are concerned, we find it difficult to agree with the view expressed in Rajesh. It has granted Rs. 25,000/- towards funeral expenses, Rs. 1,00,000/-loss of consortium and Rs. 1,00,000/- towards loss of care and guidance for minor children. The head relating to loss of care and minor children does not exist. Though Rajesh refers to Santosh Devi, it does not seem to follow the same. The conventional and traditional heads, needless to say, cannot be determined on percentage basis because that would not be an acceptable criterion. Unlike determination of income, the said heads have to be quantified. Any quantification must have a reasonable foundation. There can be no dispute over the fact that price index, fall in bank interest, escalation of rates in many a field have to be noticed. The court cannot remain oblivious to the same. There has been a thumb rule in this aspect. Otherwise, there will be extreme difficulty in determination of the same and unless the thumb rule is applied, there will be immense variation lacking any kind of consistency as a consequence of which, the orders passed by the tribunals and courts are likely to be unguided. Therefore, we think it seemly to fix reasonable sums. It seems to us that reasonable figures on conventional heads, namely, loss of estate, loss of consortium and

funeral expenses should be Rs. 15,000/-, Rs. 40,000/- and Rs. 15,000/- respectively. The principle of revisiting the said heads is an acceptable principle. But the revisit should not be fact-centric or quantum-centric. We think that it would be condign that the amount that we have quantified should be enhanced on percentage basis in every three years and the enhancement should be at the rate of 10% in a span of three years. We are disposed to hold so because that will bring in consistency in respect of those heads.”.

9. In the present case, the compensation is being reassessed as per the judgments mentioned above by taking the income of the deceased at Rs.5000/- per month keeping in view the fact that he was student of Engineering College. :-

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>Heads</i>	<i>Calculations</i>
(i)	Income	Rs.5000/- per month
(ii)	40% of (i) above to be added as future prospects=	Rs.5000+Rs.2000=Rs.7000/- per month
(iii)	1/2 of (ii) deducted as personal expenses of the deceased=	Rs.7000-Rs.3500=Rs.3500/- per month
(iv)	Compensation after multiplier of 18 is applied	Rs.3500X 12 X 18= Rs.07,56,000/-
(v)	Conventional heads (Loss of estate and funeral expenses)	Rs.30,000/-
(vi)	Loss of filial consortium (parents)	Rs.80,000/-(Rs.40,000/- each)
(vii)	Medical expenses	Rs.4,50,000/-
(viii)	Total Compensation awarded	Rs.13,16,000/-
	Enhanced amount of compensation	13,16,000-04,75,000=Rs.08,41,000/-

10. The enhanced amount of compensation of Rs.08,41,000/- shall be payable within a period of forty five days from the date of receipt of certified copy of this order. The appellants shall also get interest @ 9% in view of judgment of Hon'ble the Apex Court in Civil Appeal No. 4528-2019

titled as *Dara Singh @ Dhara Banjara vs. Shyam Singh Varma and ors,*
decided on 01.05.2019.

11. Accordingly, the award stands modified to the above extent and
the present appeal is partly allowed.

25.09.2019
G Arora

(RITU BAHRI)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether reportable

Yes
No