

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

CRM-M No.30983 of 2019
DATE OF DECISION : 22nd JULY, 2019

Sourabh Kanojia

.... Petitioner

Versus

Gourav

.... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJBIR SEHRAWAT

* * * *

Present : Mr. Surinder Sharma, Advocate for the petitioner.

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RAJBIR SEHRAWAT, J. (Oral)

Present petition has been filed seeking quashing of order dated 01.03.2019 (Annexure P-2) passed by the Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Jalandhar in complaint case No.NACT-2382 dated 17.04.2018 registered under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act (herein after referred to as 'the Act'), directing the petitioner to deposit 20% of the cheque amount to be paid as interim compensation.

Learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the complaint under Section 138 of the Act in the case was filed way back on 17.04.2018. During the pendency of the trial, the Trial Court has passed the impugned order dated 01.03.2019 (Annexure P-2), exercising powers under Section 143-A of the Act, whereby the petitioner has been directed to pay 20% of the cheque amount as interim compensation to the complainant. It is submitted that Section 143-A of the Act was introduced, for the first time, on 02.08.2018. Since a provision of Section 143-A of the Act is meant to create a substantive liability against the accused, therefore, the said provision cannot be applied to the pending

cases, because if it is so applied, then this would tantamount to giving retrospective effect to this provision. However, the substantial right of the petitioner cannot be affected retrospectively, unless the provision of law specifically so prescribes. In the present case, the amendment Act has not been prescribed by the legislature to be retrospective in operation. Hence, the provision of Section 143-A of the Act could not have been used by the Trial Court against the petitioner, in the pending Trial.

The above point of law, raised by learned counsel for the petitioner, has already been considered in detail and decided by this Court vide judgment dated 04.04.2019 rendered in another case i.e. **CRR No.9872 of 2018 (O&M)**. In that case, it has been held that since provision of Section 143-A of the Act has cast substantive obligation upon the accused, which has the effect of infringing upon the substantial right of the accused, therefore this provision cannot be applied in retrospectivity, to the cases which were pending on the date of coming into force of the amendment.

In view of the above, the present petition is allowed. Order dated 01.03.2019 (Annexure P-2) impugned in the present petition is set aside, to the extent of deposit of 20% of the cheque amount.

22nd JULY, 2019
'raj'

(RAJBIR SEHRAWAT)
JUDGE

<i>Whether speaking/reasoned:</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Whether Reportable:</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>