

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

**CRM-14709-2019 in/and
CRR-4491-2018(O&M)
Date of decision:20.05.2019**

M/s G.R.Cranes and Elevators and others

...Petitioners

Versus

Mandeep Nagpal

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJBIR SEHRAWAT

Present: Mr. Ferry Sofat, Advocate
for the petitioners.

RAJBIR SEHRAWAT, J. (ORAL)

CRM-14709-2019

Application is dismissed as infructuous.

CRR-4491-2018(O&M)

Present petition has been filed seeking quashing of the Order dated 09.10.2018 passed by the Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Ludhiana in Complaint under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act (herein after referred to as 'the Act') dated 22.12.2017 (Annexure P-1) directing the petitioner to deposit 20% of the cheque amount to be paid as interim compensation and further the order dated 27.11.2018 passed by the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Ludhiana, vide which the application for recalling the order dated 09.10.2018 was dismissed.

Learned counsel for the petitioners has submitted that the complaint under Section 138 of the Act in the case was filed way back on 22.12.2017. During the pendency of the trial, the Trial Court has passed the impugned Order dated 09.10.2018, exercising powers under Section 143-A of the Act, whereby the petitioners have 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 petitioners 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 petitioners, in the pending Trial.

The above point of law, raised by learned counsel for the petitioners, 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.9872-2018(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 09.10.2018 and order dated 27.11.2018, impugned in the present petition are set aside.

(RAJBIR SEHRAWAT)
JUDGE

20.05.2019

Hemlata

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No