

CRWP-2570-2021

SADIK VS STATE OF HARYANA AND OTHERS

Present :- Mr.Aditya Partap Singh, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Matter has been taken up through video conferencing via Webex facility in the light of the Pandemic Covid-19 situation and as per instructions.

It is alleged that 22 persons working in the brick kiln which are family members and nearest relatives of the petitioner as mentioned in paragraph-2 of the present Criminal Writ Petition are illegally detained by respondents No. 4 and 5 owner of the brick kiln under name and style SD-73 M/s Sumer Dass Brick Kiln at Israna, Police Station Israna, Tehsil and District Panipat.

A Division Bench of this Court in LPA No.32 of 2013, titled '**Murti versus The state of Punjab and others**', has held as under:-

“It may be mentioned here that the allegations of the appellant in the writ petition are that the alleged detenues mentioned in para No.3 of the writ petition who are working as labourers at the brick kiln of respondent Nos.4 & 5 are being kept as bonded labours. There can indeed be no doubt that if a labourer has been detained as bonded labour, it amounts to an offence under Sections 16 & 17 of the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act, 1976. We, however, clarify that the aforesaid observation does not mean that the allegations levelled by the appellant have been accepted. Suffice it to observe that under the

Act, the District Magistrate is under statutory obligation to hold a fact finding enquiry as and when a complaint alleging violation of the provisions of Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act, 1976 is received. Since the appellant in the instant case has specifically averred that the persons mentioned in para No.3 of the writ petition have been detained as bonded labourers, we allow this appeal and set-aside/modify the order dated 9.1.2013 passed by the learned Single Judge to the extent that the petitioner's writ petition is disposed of with a direction to the District Magistrate, Sangrur, to treat this writ petition as a complaint under the 1976 Act and take immediate action in accordance with law, within a period of one week from the date of receiving a certified copy of this order alongwith a copy of the writ petition.”

Accordingly, this Criminal Writ Petition is disposed of with a direction to District Magistrate, Panipat, to treat this petition as a complaint under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, and take immediate action in accordance with law, within a period of one week from the date of receipt of a certified copy of this order along with a copy of the writ petition.

(RAJESH BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

15.03.2021
anil

Whether speaking/reasoned :	Yes/No
Whether reportable	Yes/No