

Suchitra

IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA
FIRST APPEAL NO.96 OF 2016
WITH
STAMP NUMBER (APPLICATION) NO.1146/2020 (F)

The Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.
Bellad Chambers, Vidhyanagar, Hubli,
Dharwad, Karnataka, 58002
(Insurer of Vehicle No. KA-25-P-2097). ...APPELLANT

Versus

1. Smt. Sunita Devendra Saini,
W/o late Mr. Devendra Saini,
23 years of age, Housewife
r/a H. No. 431, Maruti Temple,
Mangor Hill, Vasco-da-Gama, Goa.

2. Master Himanshu Devendra Saini
s/o late Mr. Devendra Saini,
3 and half years of age,
r/a H. No. 431, Maruti Temple,
Mangor Hill, Vasco-da-Gama, Goa
(represented by his mother and natural
guardian the Respondent No. 1)

3. Mr. P. Adinarayan,
S/o Venkatratnam,
C/o M. Srikant, r/a H.no. 57/B,
Shantinagar, I, cross, Bengeri, Hubli.

4. Mr. M. Hemanth Kumar,
S/o Mr. M. Gopala Rao,
r/a H.no. 1-156, Gandigunta (P.O),
Vuyyuru (m), Krishnans.

...RESPONDENTS

Mr. Santosh Bharne, Advocate for the Appellant.

Ms. Susan Linhares, Advocate for Respondents No.1 and 2.

CORAM: M. S. SONAK, J.

DATED: 17th MARCH 2022

ORAL JUDGMENT :

1. Heard Mr. Bharne for the appellant and Ms. Linhares for respondents no.1 and 2.
2. This appeal has been filed by the appellant-insurance company challenging the award made under Section 166 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 (said Act).
3. There is no dispute in this case that no leave was obtained under Section 170 of the said Act by the appellant-insurance company before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal.
4. Therefore, by following the law laid down by the Division Bench of this Court in *I.C.I.C.I. Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd., Amravati vs. Surekha w/o. Prakash Ghurde and ors. (2020) 2 Bom CR 465*, this appeal will have to be dismissed as not maintainable.

5. Mr. Bharne, learned counsel for the appellant-insurance company however pointed out that in *Oriental Insurance Ltd. vs. Sangita Devi and others – 2016 SCC Online Del. 1221*, the Delhi High Court, relying upon the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *United India Insurance Co. vs. Sudha Rani – Civil Appeal No.8654/2013 decided on 24.09.2013* has held that once the insurance company is voluntarily impleaded as a party to the claim petition by the claimants, it can raise all defences, including the defences concerning the quantum of compensation.

6. He also referred to the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd. vs. Kamla Sen – 2014 ACJ 2396* which according to him holds that where the insurance company is impleaded as a party respondent, it can raise all contentions that are available to resist the claim. He pointed out that this is what was held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of *United India Insurance Company Ltd. vs. Shila Datta – (2011) 10 SCC 509*.

7. Although the Division Bench of this Court in *I.C.I.C.I. Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd. case (supra)*, may have not referred to the decision of the learned Single Judge of the Delhi High Court in *Sangita Devi (supra)* or the decision of the

Hon'ble Supreme Court that was referred to therein, the Division Bench, has considered the decisions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *National Insurance Company Limited vs. Nicoletta Rohtagi*, (2002) 7 SCC 456; *United India Assurance Company Ltd. vs. Bhushan Sachdev*, (2002) 2 SCC 265, *Shila Datta (supra)* and *Josephine James vs. United India Insurance Company Limited* (2013) 16 SCC 711 and held that notwithstanding the reference made, the decisions in *Nicoletta Rohtagi (supra)* and *Josephine James (supra)* hold good and based upon the same, the appeal filed by the Insurance Company questioning the quantum of compensation, would not be maintainable in the absence of permission under Section 170(b) of the said Act.

8. Accordingly, this appeal is dismissed. However, dismissal of this appeal will not come in the way of the appellant-insurance company from instituting any other proceedings, if maintainable in law.

9. The appellant-insurance company has deposited the awarded amount in this appeal. Accordingly, the claimants are permitted to withdraw the amount deposited in this Court together with interest if any that may have accrued thereon after four weeks from today unless of course the appellant-insurance

company, in the meanwhile, secures restraint orders for such withdrawal.

10. The claimants will have to furnish the necessary identification and bank details so that the Registry can directly deposit the amounts into the respective bank accounts of the claimants. The claimants will also be entitled to the interest that may have accrued on the deposited amounts after adjusting the amounts already withdrawn by the claimants.

11. This appeal is disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

12. The miscellaneous civil application does not survive and even the same is disposed of.

M. S. SONAK, J.

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