

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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CRM-M-2105-2021(O&M)
Date of decision: 05.12.2022

IQBAL SINGH AND ORS

....Petitioners

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB AND ANR

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY

Present : Mr. Saurav Bhatia, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Kamalpreet Bawa, AAG Punjab.

Mr. Ramanpreet Singh, Advocate
for respondent No.2.

AMAN CHAUDHARY. J.

Present petition has been filed for quashing of FIR No.72, dated 10.10.2020, under Sections 406, 420, 120-B IPC and Section 13 of the Punjab Travel Professional Act, 2014, registered at Police Station Aur, District SBS Nagar and all other consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of the compromise dated 17.10.2020 and 26.10.2020 (Annexure P-2).

Learned counsel for the petitioners, at the outset, prays for withdrawal of the petition qua petitioner No.1 inasmuch as he was unable to deposit a sum of Rs.50,000/- as directed by this Court vide order dated 01.06.2022 as a condition precedent for recording his statement, however, with regard to the other petitioners he submits that statement has since been recorded and prays that FIR be quashed qua them.

Notice of motion was issued on 15.01.2021 and both the parties were directed to appear before the trial Court for recording their statements in the context

of genuineness of the compromise. The trial Court was also directed to submit its report with regard to genuineness of the compromise.

Pursuant to the aforesaid order, report dated 10.03.2021 has been received from the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, SBS Nagar. A perusal of the said report reveals that statements of the concerned persons have been recorded in the present case, who have stated that the matter has been settled between the parties and they have no objection in case the FIR in question is quashed and the compromise effected between them is genuine, without any undue influence and coercion. It is stated in the report that there are four accused. None of them is involved in any other FIR.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties and have also gone through the case file.

After perusing the report submitted by the trial Court, this Court finds that the matter has been amicably settled between the petitioner(s) and the complainant(s). Since the matter has been settled and the parties have decided to live in peace, this Court is of the view that in order to secure the ends of justice, the criminal proceedings deserve to be quashed.

As per the Full Bench judgment of this Court in “***Kulwinder Singh and others Vs State of Punjab***”, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052, it is held that High Court has power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to allow the compounding of non-compoundable offence and quash the prosecution where the High Court is of the view that the same was required to prevent the abuse of the process of law or otherwise to secure the ends of justice. This power of quashing is not confined to matrimonial disputes alone.

Hon'ble the Apex Court in the case of “***Gian Singh Vs. State of Punjab and another***”, 2012 (4) RCR (Criminal) 543, had also observed that in order to

secure the ends of justice or to prevent the abuse of process of Court, inherent power can be used by this Court to quash criminal proceedings in which a compromise has been effected. The relevant portion of para 57 of the said judgment is reproduced hereinbelow:-

“57. The position that emerges from the above discussion can be summarised thus: the power of the High Court in quashing a criminal proceeding or FIR or complaint in exercise of its inherent jurisdiction is distinct and different from the power given to a criminal court for compounding the offences under Section 320 of the Code.

Inherent power is of wide plenitude with no statutory limitation but it has to be exercised in accord with the guideline engrafted in such power viz; (i) to secure the ends of justice or (ii) to prevent abuse of the process of any Court. XXX---XXX”

In view of the above, the petition is partly allowed and FIR No.72, dated 10.10.2020, under Sections 406, 420, 120-B IPC and Section 13 of the Punjab Travel Professional Act, 2014, registered at Police Station Aur, District SBS Nagar, and all other consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of the compromise dated 17.10.2020 and 26.10.2020 (Annexure P-2), are quashed qua the petitioner Nos.2 to 4 only. The petition is dismissed as withdrawn qua petitioner No.1.

(AMAN CHAUDHARY)
JUDGE

December 05, 2022

S.Sharma(syr)

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