

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

Transfer Application No. 464 of 2021 (O & M)

Date of decision: 19.12.2022

Asha Rani

.....Petitioner

VS

Ranjit Singh

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE NIDHI GUPTA

Present:- Mr. Pushp Jain, Advocate
for the petitioner.

None for the respondent despite service.

NIDHI GUPTA, J.(Oral)

1. Prayer in this petition filed by petitioner-wife is for transfer of the petition filed by respondent-husband under Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (for short 'the Act') titled "Ranjit Singh vs. Asha Rani" pending in the Court of Principal Judge, Family Court, Tarn Taran to a Court of competent jurisdiction at Jalandhar.

Though notice has been served upon the respondent but from the last four dates i.e. 02.09.2022, 14.09.2022, 09.11.2022 and 18.11.2022, no one has put in appearance on behalf of respondent. Today also no one has appeared on behalf of respondent. Accordingly, this petition is being decided in his absence.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner has contended :-

- i) That the parties were married on 10.3.2019 according to Sikh rites and rituals.

- ii) That no child was born out of this wedlock.
- iii) That the petitioner-wife is living separately from the respondent-husband since October 2019 and living with her parents at their mercy at Jalandhar.
- iv) That the petitioner is unemployed, having no source of income and totally dependent upon her parents and the respondent-husband, who is doing the work of finance, sale of medicine products, shuttering and sale purchase of properties, is not paying anything to her towards maintenance.
- v) The respondent-husband has filed the petition under Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, which is pending before the Principal Judge, Family Court, Tarn Taran.
The proceedings arising out of petitions (1) under Section 125 Cr.P.C.; and (2) complaint under Section 156(3) Cr.P.C. titled 'Asha Rani vs. Ranjit Singh and others', filed by the petitioner-wife, are pending in the Courts having competent jurisdiction at Jalandhar.
- v) That the distance between place of residence of the petitioner-wife i.e. Jalandhar and the place of proceedings under Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 filed by the respondent-husband, pending before the Principal Judge, Family Court, Tarn Taran, is about 100 kilometers of one side.
- vi) That there is no proficient male member in the family of the petitioner, who can accompany her to the Court of proceedings at Tarn Taran.

3. It is inter alia on these grounds that petitioner prays for transfer of the case, as detailed in para 1 above.

4. I have heard learned counsel for the petitioner.

The legal position in such like cases as the present one, is well established. In this regard, judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme

Court rendered in **N.C.V. Aishwarya vs A.S. Saravana Karthik Sha,” 2022 Live Law (SC) 627**, is most relevant wherein the Hon’ble Supreme Court has held as under:-

“9. The cardinal principle for exercise of power under section 24 of the Code of Civil Procedure is that the ends of justice should demand the transfer of the suit, appeal or other proceeding. In matrimonial matters, wherever Courts are called upon to consider the plea of transfer, the Courts have to take into consideration the economic soundness of both the parties, the social strata of the spouses and their behavioural pattern, their standard of life prior to the marriage and subsequent thereto and the circumstances of both the parties in eking out their livelihood and under whose protective umbrella they are seeking their sustenance to life. Given the prevailing socioeconomic paradigm in the Indian society, generally, it is the wife's convenience which must be looked at while considering transfer.

10. Further, when two or more proceedings are pending in different Courts between the same parties which raise common question of fact and law, and when the decisions in the cases are interdependent, it is desirable that they should be tried together by the same Judge so as to avoid multiplicity in trial of the same issues and conflict of decisions.”

5. Further reliance can be placed upon the judgments in **“Sumita Singh vs Kumar Sanjay”, 2002 SC 396** and **“Rajani Kishor Pardeshivs Kishor Babulal Pardeshi”, 2005(12) SCC 237**, wherein the Hon’ble Supreme Court has observed that “while deciding the transfer application, the Courts are required to give more weightage and consideration to the convenience of the female litigants and transfer of legal proceedings from one Court to another should ordinarily be allowed, taking into consideration their convenience and the Courts should desist from putting female litigants under undue hardships.”

6. Even this Court in number of cases has followed the aforesaid principle of law. Accordingly, it is well settled that while

considering the transfer of a matrimonial dispute/case, at the instance of the wife, the Court is to consider the family condition of the wife, the custody of the minor child, economic condition of the wife, her physical health and earning capacity of the husband and most important the convenience of the wife i.e. she cannot travel alone without assistance of a male member of her family, connectivity of the place to and fro from her place of residence as well as bearing of the litigation charges and travelling expenses.

7. In view of the facts mentioned above and the judgments i.e. **Sumita Singh's** case (supra), **Rajani Kishor Pardeshi's** case (supra) and **N.C.V. Aishwarya's** case (supra) passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, this Court deems it appropriate to allow the present petition, subject to the following conditions:-

- a) The petition filed by respondent husband under Section 9 of Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, bearing HMA/148/2021 titled as 'Ranjit Singh vs. Asha Rani' pending in the Court of Principal Judge, Family Court, Tarn Taran is transferred to a Court of competent jurisdiction at Jalandhar.
- b) The Id. District Judge, Tarn Taran is directed to transfer complete record pertaining to the aforesaid case to District Judge, Jalandhar.
- c) The parties are directed to appear before the District & Sessions Judge, Jalandhar on 23.1.2023.
- d) The District Judge, Jalandhar will assign the said petition to the Court of competent jurisdiction.

8. The concerned Court at Jalandhar will make all endeavour to refer the case before the Mediation and Conciliation

Centre for exploring the possibility of some amicable settlement between the parties.

9. The Court concerned, where the litigation pending between the parties, will accommodate them with one date in one calendar month.

11. I am supported by the decisions rendered by a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in **TA No. 1315/2022, Rohini Arora v Nitin Talwar; TA No. 1322 of 2022, Jaswinder Kaur v Gurvinderjeet Singh; and TA No. 1323 of 2022, Usha Rani v Karmajit Singh.**

Disposed of.

Pending application(s), if any, stands disposed of.

December 19, 2022

Vijay Asija

**(NIDHI GUPTA)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned YES/NO

Whether Reportable YES/NO