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

CRM-M-30897-2022

Date of decision : 20.09.2022

Balwinder Singh and others

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKAS BAHL

Present: Mr. Neeraj Januha, Advocate for the petitioners.

Mr. Tarun Aggarwal, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

Mr. B.S. Bajwa, Advocate for respondent No.2.

VIKAS BAHL, J. (ORAL)

This is a petition filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. for quashing of FIR No.37 dated 08.05.2022 registered under Sections 325, 323, 341, 506, 34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 at Police Station Qadian, Police District Batala, District Gurdaspur (Annexure P-1) and all the subsequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise.

On 20.07.2022, this Court had passed the following order:-

“This is a petition filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. for quashing of FIR No.37 dated 08.05.2022 registered under Sections 325, 323, 341, 506, 34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 at Police Station Qadian, Police District Batala, District Gurdaspur (Annexure P-1) and all the subsequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise.

Learned counsel for the petitioners has submitted that all the persons concerned are party to the compromise.

Notice of motion for 29.08.2022.

On asking of the Court, Mr. Sarabjit S. Cheema, AAG, Punjab appears and accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State and Mr. B.S. Bajwa, Advocate appears on behalf of respondent No.2.

The parties are directed to appear before the Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court for recording their statements qua compromise within a period of one month.

The Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court is directed to submit a report on or before the next date of hearing containing the following information:-

- 1. Number of persons arrayed as accused.*
- 2. Whether any accused is proclaimed offender?*
- 3. Whether the compromise is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence?*
- 4. Whether the accused persons are involved in any other FIR or not?*
- 5. The trial Court is also directed to record the statement of the Investigating Officer as to how many victims/complainants are there in the FIR.”*

Thereafter, since the parties could not appear before the trial Court on the date mentioned in the abovesaid order, they had sought one more opportunity to appear before the trial Court and the same was granted on 29.08.2022 by this Court. The order dated 29.08.2022 passed by this Court is reproduced hereasunder:-

“Learned counsel for the parties has submitted that one last opportunity be granted to the parties to get their statements recorded before the Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court.

Adjourned to 20.09.2022.

The parties are directed to appear before the Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court for recording their statements qua compromise within a period of 15 days from today.

The Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court is directed to submit a report on or before the next date of hearing containing the following information:-

- 1. Number of persons arrayed as accused.*
- 2. Whether any accused is proclaimed offender?*
- 3. Whether the compromise is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence?*
- 4. Whether the accused persons are involved in any other FIR or not?*
- 5. The trial Court is also directed to record the statement of the Investigating Officer as to how many victims/complainants are there in the FIR.*

However, since the statement of the parties could not be recorded before the Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court in spite of the direction given vide order dated 20.07.2022, thus, the abovesaid opportunity is granted, subject to the payment of costs of Rs.5,000/- which shall be deposited by the petitioner in the 'Punjab and Haryana High Court Employees' Welfare Association Fund', within a period of 15 days from today.

The trial Court shall only record the statements of parties on production of receipt of said payment.

It is made clear that if the said amount is not deposited within the stipulated period of time, then the present petition would be deemed to have been dismissed.”

In pursuance of the abovesaid order, a report has been submitted by the Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Batala. The relevant portion of the said report is reproduced hereinbelow:-

“It is further submitted that ASI Mangal Singh No.2000/Btl, presently posted at Police Station Qadian has come present and suffered a statement that there are five persons arraigned as accused namely Balwinder Singh son of Ajeet Singh, Mangal Singh son of Ajeet Singh, Major Singh son of Ajeet Singh, Shamsher Singh @ Harbhej Singh son of Major Singh and Gurwinder Singh son of Mangal Singh all R/o Village Kokalpura, Tehsil Batala, District Gurdaspur as per FIR. In this case there is no accused person has been declared as proclaimed offender. It is averred that no accused persons are involved in any other FIR. It is further averred that in this FIR there is only one victim/complainant namely Sikandar Singh S/o Nikka Singh R/o Village Kokalpura, Tehsil Batala, District Gurdaspur.”

A perusal of the said report would show that the compromise has been found to be genuine, without any pressure or undue influence. It has been stated that the statements of the complainant as well as the accused have been recorded in the case and both have stated that the matter has been compromised and they have no objection in case the FIR is quashed. It is further stated that the statement of the complainant has been made voluntarily without any fear, coercion or pressure.

Learned counsel for the petitioners has submitted that the petitioners were not declared proclaimed offender in the present case. Learned counsel for the State, as per instructions has stated that the said fact is correct.

Learned counsel for respondent No.2 has again reiterated that the matter has been settled and the said compromise is in the interest of all the persons and would help in bringing out peace and amity between the

two parties.

Learned counsel for the parties have also produced on record the receipt dated 07.09.2022 showing the deposit of Rs.5,000/-. The said receipt is taken on record and is marked as Mark "A".

This Court has heard the learned counsel for the parties and has perused the file. After perusing the report submitted by the trial Court, this Court finds that the matter has been amicably settled between the petitioners and the complainant. Since the matter has been settled and the parties have decided to live in peace, this Court feels 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**", reported as **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 opinion that the same is 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**", reported as **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 what has been discussed hereinabove, the petition is allowed and FIR No.37 dated 08.05.2022 registered under Sections 325, 323, 341, 506, 34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 at Police Station Qadian, Police District Batala, District Gurdaspur (Annexure P-1) and all the subsequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise, are ordered to be quashed, qua the petitioners.

All the pending miscellaneous applications, if any, stand disposed of in view of the abovesaid judgment.

20.09.2022

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**(VIKAS BAHL)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned:- Yes/No

Whether reportable:- Yes/No