

281

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

CRM-M-35721-2022

Date of decision : 31.10.2022

Chander Gupt and another

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Haryana and others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKAS BAHL

Present: Mr. Pankaj Bali, Advocate for the petitioners.

Mr. Dhruv Sihag, AAG, Haryana.

Ms. Ishita Jain, Advocate for respondent Nos.2 and 3.

VIKAS BAHL, J. (ORAL)

This is a petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. praying for quashing of FIR No.175 dated 27.03.2022, registered under Sections 406 and 420 IPC, at Police Station Civil Lines, Karnal and all other consequential proceedings arising therefrom.

On 10.10.2022, this Court had passed the following order:-

“This is a petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. praying for quashing of FIR No.175 dated 27.03.2022, registered under Sections 406 and 420 IPC, at Police Station Civil Lines, Karnal and all other consequential proceedings arising therefrom.

Learned counsel appearing on behalf of respondents No.2 and 3 pursuant to order dated 22.09.2022, has filed

two affidavits i.e., of respondents No.2 and 3, in which, it has been stated that they have no objection in case the present FIR is quashed.

The said affidavits are taken on record and have been marked as 'Mark A' and 'Mark B'.

Adjourned to 27.10.2022.

The parties are directed to appear before the Illaqa Magistrate on 18.10.2022 at 10.30 AM for recording their statements qua the compromise.

The Illaqa Magistrate 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.”*

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

“4. The Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court also sought following information:

a. Number of persons arrayed as accused in the FIR?

Ans. As per statement of SI Lakhbir Singh, FIR was registered against 2 accused persons.

b. Whether any accused is declared as proclaimed offender?

Ans. As per statement of SI Lakhbir Singh, no one accused is declared as proclaimed offender.

c. Whether the compromise is genuine, voluntary & without any coercion or undue influence?

Ans. As per the statement of both parties, it appears that compromise is genuine, voluntary & without any coercion or undue influence.

d. Whether the accused persons are involved in any other FIR or not?

Ans. As per statement of SI Lakhbir Singh, no other FIR has been registered against accused. e. The trial Court is also directed to record the statement of Investigating Officer as to how many victims/complainant are there in the FIR?

Ans. As per statement of SI Lakhbir Singh, there are two victims in the present FIR”

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 Nos.2 and 3 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.

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.175 dated 27.03.2022, registered under Sections 406 and 420 IPC, at Police Station Civil Lines, Karnal and all other consequential 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.

31.10.2022

Pawan

**(VIKAS BAHL)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned:- Yes/No

Whether reportable:- Yes/No