

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRR-1786-2021
Reserved on: 06.09.2022
Date of Pronouncement: 29.09.2022

Vijay Pal Singh
...Petitioner (s)
Versus
M/s Vijay Steel Traders and another
...Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANOOP CHITKARA

Present:- Mr. Sunny K. Singla, Advocate
for the petitioner(s).

Mr. M.S. Yadav, Advocate
for respondent no.1.

Mr. Jashandeep Singh, AAG, Punjab.

ANOOP CHITKARA, J.

Criminal Complaint	CIS No.7225/2014 under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act read with Section 420 IPC, District Ludhiana.
Criminal Appeal	No. 26 of 10.8.2016, Addl. Sessions Judge, District Ludhiana.

1. The petitioner, who stands convicted for the commission of offence punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, (NIA) has come up before this Court under Section 482, Code of Criminal Procedure, (CrPC) for quashing the proceedings because the parties have compromised the matter.
2. The petitioner has annexed with the revision petition, the copy of the compromise/settlement arrived at between the parties before the Mediation Centre. As per the report dated 8.2.2021, the parties have amicably settled their disputes. The factum of compromise has been affirmed by the respondents before this Court on subsequent occasions as evident from the orders passed in

this regard.

3. The petitioner faced criminal prosecution by the private respondent because of the dishonor of the cheque in question. Thus, the opposition of the State's counsel to this compromise is formal.

4. The jurisprudence behind the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 is that the business transactions are to be honoured. The legislative intention is not to make people suffer incarceration only because their cheques bounced. These proceedings are to recover the cheque amount by showing teeth of a penal clause.

5. Given the judgment passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Damodar S. Prabhu v Sayed Babalal, (2010) 5 SCC 663, the law is well settled that when the entire money is paid, then the complainant cannot have any objection to such compromise, and 15% of the cheque amount is to be paid by the accused to the concerned State Legal Services Authority.

6. Given above, because of the compromise, this is a fit case where the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court under Section 482 of the CrPC supported by Section 147 of the NIA is invoked to disrupt the prosecution and quash the proceedings mentioned above. Accordingly, the complaint, notice of accusation, and the proceedings captioned above are quashed and set aside. The bail bonds are accordingly discharged. All pending application(s), if any, stand closed.

7. Ld. counsel submits that in case the 15% compensation amount could not be deposited, then in such a situation, the time to do so may be extended and also prayed that in case it is beyond the financial capacity of the petitioner to pay the 15% amount. It may be dispensed with or reduced after considering the petition's paying capacity, family, and financial liabilities.

8. The amounts in cheques in question was Rs. 68,763/-, 15% of which comes out to be Rs.10,314/-. This compounding is subject to the petitioner depositing the amount of Rs.10,314/-, on or before 31st December, 2022, with the concerned wing of High Court Legal Aid Committee, failing which this entire

order, including compounding, shall automatically stand recalled under Section 362 CrPC.

9. In case, after taking into account the family and financial liabilities, it is beyond the petition's financial capacity to pay the 15% amount, then in such a situation, it shall be open for the petitioner to apply to section 482 CrPC by placing on record the bank statements from 01 April 2020 till the date of all bank accounts, all fixed deposits, DEMAT account numbers, the current market value of jewelry, sovereign metals, all precious articles, held either individually or jointly, and cash-in-hand. After analyzing the petition's paying capacity, the court shall consider reducing or dispensing with 15% of the amount mentioned earlier.

10. In extraordinary circumstances, the petitioner may approach this Court for an extension of time to deposit the compounding fee. Petitioner to file the proof of deposit before the trial Court within the aforementioned time. Consequently, the above-captioned complaint, notice of accusation, and all consequent proceedings would also stand quashed qua the petitioners, and the petitioners would also stand acquitted of all the offenses captioned above. All pending applications are closed. On failure to comply with the conditions mentioned above, the petition shall be listed for a final hearing, and the quashing order shall automatically stand recalled without any further reference to this Court.

Revision Petition allowed in the terms mentioned above. All pending applications, if any, stand closed.

(ANOOP CHITKARA)
JUDGE

September 29, 2022
AK

Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes
Whether reportable:	No.