

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

**TA-1077-2019 (O&M)
Date of decision: 19.07.2022**

Roop Kaur

...Petitioner

Versus

Ritu Singh @ Neetu @ Harpal Singh

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN

Present:- Mr. Manoj Kaushik, Advocate
for the petitioner.

None for the respondent.

ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN, J. (Oral)

CM-8483-CII-2022

Prayer in this application is for preponing the date of the main case which is fixed for 23.08.2022.

For the reasons stated in the application, the same is allowed.

Let the main case be preponed and taken up today itself.

TA-1077-2019 (O&M)

Prayer in this petition is for transfer of the petition filed by the respondent-husband under Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, titled as ***Ritu Singh @ Neetu vs. Roop Kaur***, pending before the Family Court, Barnala to the competent Court of jurisdiction at Ludhiana.

This transfer application is pending since 2019 and while issuing notice of motion on 28.11.2019, further proceedings before the trial Court were stayed.

Learned counsel for the petitioner has argued that on account of a matrimonial discord, the petitioner has filed a petition under Section 125

Cr.P.C. for grant of maintenance as well as a petition under Section 12 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act at Ludhiana, which are pending, and as a counter-blast to the same, the respondent-husband has filed the present petition under Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act at Barnala in order to harass the petitioner. It is further submitted that the petitioner is facing great difficulty in prosecuting the said case, as there is a distance of about 80 Kms between Barnala and Ludhiana.

It is further submitted that the petitioner is having a minor child, who is living in her care and custody, therefore, it is very difficult for her to defend the said case at Barnala.

Learned counsel has relied upon the judgments ***Sumita Singh Vs. Kumar Sanjay, 2002 SC 396*** and ***Rajani Kishor Pardeshi Vs. Kishor Babulal Pardeshi, 2005(12) SCC 237***, wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court 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.”*

As per office report, the respondent is served, however, there is no representation on his behalf.

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 family condition of the wife, custody of the minor child, economic condition of the wife, her physical health and earning capacity of the husband and most important, 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.

After hearing the counsel for the petitioner, considering the fact that issuance of notice to the respondent has the consequences of staying further proceedings before the trial Court, otherwise the petitioner-wife will have to bear the litigation expenses and transportation expenses and in view of the fact that in case notice of motion is issued, even the respondent/husband has to bear the litigation expenses and in also in view of the judgments rendered in ***Sumita Singh***'s case (supra) and ***Rajani Kishor Pardeshi***'s case (supra), this Court deems it appropriate to allow the present petition, with the following directions:-

- (i) *The petition filed under Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act, pending before the Family Court, Barnala will be transferred to the competent Court of jurisdiction at Ludhiana.*
- (ii) *The District Judge, Ludhiana will assign the said petition to the competent Court of jurisdiction.*
- (iii) *The Family Court at Barnala is directed to transfer all the record pertaining to the aforesaid case to District Judge, Ludhiana.*
- (iv) *The parties are directed to appear before the trial Court at Ludhiana within a period of 01 month from today.*

However, liberty is granted to the respondent-husband to revive this petition, if he intends to contest the same, provided that:-

- (i) *The respondent will clear all the arrears of maintenance amount, if any, in terms of the petition filed by the petitioner either under*

Section 125 C r.P.C. or Section 12 of the Domestic Violence Act or Section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act.

- (ii) The respondent will file an affidavit giving undertaking to pay Rs.1,000/- per day, to the petitioner for attending the Court proceedings at Barnala, on each and every date of hearing.*
- (iii) The respondent will bring a demand draft of Rs.25,000/- towards the litigation expenses of the petitioner to pursue the case at Barnala, in case the respondent opts to contest this petition.*

19.07.2022

Waseem Ansari

**(ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No