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CMA No.2734 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 02.03.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE RMT.TEEKAA RAMAN

CMA No.2734 of 2022

Gundala Sathish

.. Appellant

Vs.

1. K.Sivakumar.

2. The Oriental Insurance Company Limited,
Motor Third Party Hub,
No.115, Broadway,
II Floor,
Chennai – 600 001.

.. Respondents

PRAYER: This Civil Miscellaneous Appeal is filed under Section 173 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to enhance the award dated 11.11.2019 passed in MCOP No.2970 of 2013 on the file of the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal [V Court of Small Causes], Chennai.

For Appellant : Mr.C.Richard Suresh Kumar

For Respondents : Mr.D.Bhaskaran (for R2)



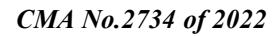
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JUDGMENT

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In a road transport accident on 15.10.2012, a Tanker lorry bearing Regn. No.AP-03-X-6566, driven by its driver in a rash and negligent manner, got capsized and the lorry got burst, thereby caused fire accident, wherein 22 persons were injured and 2 persons were dead. Injured claimants/legal representatives of the deceased, filed individual claim petitions, numbering 24, before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal [V Court of Small Causes], Chennai. All the 24 cases were tried jointly and by a common judgment dated 11.11.2019, the claims tribunal held that the driver of the Tanker Lorry was negligent in causing the accident and accordingly, fastened liability on the insurer of the Tanker Lorry viz., the Oriental Insurance Company, the 2nd respondent herein and awarded compensation in each claim petitions.

2. Claim petitioner in MCOP No.2970 of 2013, is the appellant herein seeking enhancement of compensation for the burn injuries sustained in both legs, in the above said accident.



4. The factum of the accident, the manner of the accident and the negligence on the part of the driver of the offending vehicle, are not disputed. Hence, the findings of the claims tribunal, are confirmed.

5. The claim petitioner, who had suffered injury in the road transport accident on 15.10.2012, has filed the above MCOP and the claims tribunal has awarded a sum of Rs.1,27,200/- with interest at the rate of 7.5% per annum from the date of numbering of claim petition till the date of realization with costs.

6. On the quantum of compensation, heard the learned counsel for the appellant/claim petitioner and the learned counsel appearing on behalf of the 2nd respondent/Insurance Company and perused the materials available on record.



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7. On perusal of Ex.P30, copy of the wound certificate issued by Andhra Pradesh Vaidya Vidhana Parishad, the claim petitioner had sustained 40% burn injuries in both legs and he has taken treatment in the hospital from 23.10.2012 to 05.11.2012. The claims tribunal has fixed the disability at 20% and awarded Rs.60,000/- i.e. Rs.3,000/- per percentage of disability, which appears to be reasonable and the same is confirmed.

8. The claims tribunal has awarded only Rs.20,000/- for pain and suffering and also has awarded loss of income at the rate of Rs.6,000/-per month for the period of three months only. As stated supra, the claim petitioner has suffered 40% burn injuries in both the legs and therefore, I am inclined to enhance the award under the head 'pain and suffering' from Rs.20,000/- to Rs.25,000/-. Further, by fixing the monthly income of the deceased at Rs.8,000/-, loss of income for a period of four months is awarded i.e. Rs.8000/- x 4 = Rs.32,000/-, as against Rs.18,000/- awarded by the tribunal. Compensation amount under other heads and the interest awarded by the tribunal, appears to be just and reasonable and hence, they are kept intact. The reassessed compensation is as follows:



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	Amount awarded by the tribunal Rs.	Award now modified Rs.	Enhanced Amount
Pain & sufferings	20,000	25,000	5,000
Transport and Extra Nourishment	10,000	10,000	-
Disability 20% x Rs.3,000/-	60,000	60,000	-
Loss of Income	18,000 (Rs.6000/- x 3 months)	32,000 (Rs.8,000/- x 4 months)	14,000
Attender Charges	4,200	4,200	
Loss of amenities	10,000	10,000	
Medical Expenses	5,000	5,000	
Total	1,27,200	1,46,200	
Enhanced now			Rs.19,000/-

9. In the result, it is ordered as follows:

- (i) The judgment and decree dated 11.11.2019, made in MCOP No.2970 of 2013 on the file of the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal [V Court of Small Causes], Chennai, stands modified to the limited extent that the compensation of Rs.1,27,200/- awarded by the claims tribunal is enhanced to Rs.1,46,200/- i.e. Rs.1,27,200/- + Rs.19,000/- and the interest awarded by the claims tribunal remains unaltered.
- (ii) Additional Court fee, if any, to be paid by the claim petitioner within a period of four weeks and decree to be drafted after the payment of Court fee.



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(iii) The 2nd respondent-Insurance company is directed to deposit the enhanced compensation amount of Rs.1,46,200/- with proportionate interest and costs to the credit of MCOP No.2970 of 2013 on the file of the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal [V Court of Small Causes], Chennai, within a period of eight weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order, less the amount deposited, if any.

(iv) On such deposit, the appellant/claim petitioner, is permitted to withdraw the same, less the amount withdrawn, if any, on making necessary applications.

10. With the above directions, the Civil Miscellaneous Appeal stands partly allowed. No Costs.

02.03.2023

Index : Yes/No
Neutral Citation : Yes/No.
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To
The V Judge,
Court of Small Causes,
Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Chennai.



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RMT.TEEKAA RAMAN,J.,

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