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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M No. 34255-2023
Date of decision : 12.12.2023

Sandeep Kaur

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PANKAJ JAIN

Present : Ms. Varinder Pal Singh, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Kunal Vinayak, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. Vikram Satpal Anand, Advocate
for respondent No.2.

PANKAJ JAIN, J. (ORAL)

1. By way of present petition, the petitioners are seeking quashing of FIR No. 22 dated 28.03.2022, registered for offences punishable under Sections 3 (1) (x) of the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (later on Section 3 (1) (x) deleted and Section 3 (i) (r) of the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 added) at Police Station City Morinda, District Rupnagar on the basis of compromise dated 15.06.2023 (Annexure P-2).

2. On 05.09.2023 the following order was passed :

“The present petition has been moved invoking jurisdiction of this Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C seeking quashing of FIR No. 22 dated 28.03.2022 under Sections 3 (1) (x) of the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (later on Section 3 (1) (X) deleted and Section 3 (I) (r) of the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes

(Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 added) registered at Police Station City Morinda, District Rupnagar and all subsequent proceedings arising thereto on the basis of compromise.

Learned counsel for the parties are ad idem to the fact that the matter stands compromised amongst parties.

Perusal of the file reveals that notice of motion was issued on 19.07.2023 by co-ordinate Bench of this Court.

In view of the above, the parties are directed to appear before learned Trial Court/Illaq Magistrate on 18.09.2023. On their doing so, the learned Trial Court/Illaq Magistrate shall record their statements and furnish its report to this Court by the next date of hearing on the following aspects:-

- 1. Number of persons arrayed as accused in the complaint.*
- 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 case 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 complaint.*

A copy of the report be also sent to the Registrar Judicial of this Court. Needless to say that in case for any reason the statements are not recorded on the aforesaid date, the learned Trial Court/Duty Magistrate shall be at liberty to call the parties on any other date but not later than a week thereafter.

To come up on 12.12.2023”.

3. Pursuant to the aforesaid order, report dated 21.09.2023 from Additional Sessions Judge, Rupnagar has been received, which is taken on record. As per the report, the Trial Court has recorded as follows:-

“It is further submitted that keeping in view the above following submission qua the specific queries put by the Hon’ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, vide its order dated 05.09.2023-

I. As per record, FIR No.22 dated 28.03.2022 under Section 3(1) (r) SC/ST Act, was registered at Police Station City Morinda and no other accused has been named in the present FIR.

ii. As per record and statement of Investigating Officer, accused was neither declared a proclaimed offender in the present case nor involved in any other criminal case.

Iii. The statements of the complainant as well as of accused have been recorded in the Court. As per the statements, the compromise has been effected by the parties of their own volition, without any inducement

and coercion. Keeping in view the same, I am of the considered view that the compromise effected between the parties is genuine, voluntary and out of their free will.

iv. The accused is not involved in any other case.

v. Statement of the Investigating Officer has been recorded as directed”.

4. Learned counsel for respondent No.2 admits the fact of parties having compromised and states that he has no objection in case the FIR and all proceedings subsequent thereto against the petitioner is quashed.

5. Similarly, learned State counsel has stated no objection in case the FIR is quashed based upon the compromise dated 15.06.2023 (Annexure P-2).

6. I have heard learned Counsel for the parties and have carefully gone through the records of the case.

7. This Court and Apex Court has repeatedly dealt with the issue of exercise of jurisdiction under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to quash proceedings in non-compoundable offences in the cases of ***Gian Singh vs. State of Punjab and another, 2012(10) SCC 303, State of Madhya Pradesh vs. Laxmi Narayan and others (2019) 5 SCC 688, Kulwinder Singh & others vs. State of Punjab & another, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052 and Ram Gopal and another vs. State of Madhya Pradesh, 2021(4) R.C.R. (Criminal) 322 (Criminal Appeal No.1489 of 2012 decided on 29th of September, 2021).*** The proposition of law that emerges from the aforesaid decisions rendered by Apex Court and this Court is :

(a) Power u/s 482 Cr.P.C. vested with this Court is much wider and is unaffected by Section 320 of the Code.

(b) However, wider the power greater the caution.

(c) The underlining principle while exercising such power is

that it can be invoked to quash the proceedings recognizing compromise between the parties in the matters which are overwhelmingly and predominantly of civil character like commercial transactions or arising out of matrimonial relationship or family disputes.

(d) The said power is not to be exercised in the prosecutions involving heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity etc. as such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society.

(e) Section 482 Cr.P.C. casts duty upon the High Court to advance interest of justice as well. It is in recognition of this duty casted upon the High Court, that Apex Court held that the High Court would not refuse to quash FIR under Section 307 merely because FIR finds mention thereof. High Court can assess nature of injuries sustained, whether such injuries inflicted on vital/delicate parts of the body/nature of weapons used etc.

(f) Such exercise at the hands of High Court would be permissible only after the evidence is collected after investigation and chargesheet is filed/charges framed during the trial. Such exercise cannot be carried out while the matter is still under investigation.

(g) While quashing FIR in non-compoundable offences even which are of private in nature, High Court is required to consider antecedents of the accused, conduct of the accused and whether he was absconding or whether he has managed the complainant to enter into a compromise.

8. Thus, keeping in view the aforesaid facts and circumstances, this Court is of the considered opinion that it is a fit case to exercise jurisdiction vested u/s 482 Cr.P.C. to quash the FIR as :-

- (i) The present matter does not fall within the exceptions as carved out in **Laxmi Narayan's** case (supra) i.e. heinous offence.*
- (ii) The offences alleged are of private nature.*
- (iii) The parties have compromised.*
- (iv) As per the report received the compromise is said to be voluntary in its nature.*
- (v) Complainant/victim is reported to have entered into*

compromise on his own volition.

9. Consequently, the petition is allowed. FIR No. 22 dated 28.03.2022 registered for offences punishable under Sections 3 (1) (x) of the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (later on Section 3 (1) (x) deleted and Section 3 (i) (r) of the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 added) at Police Station City Morinda, District Rupnagar and all proceedings arising therefrom, are, hereby, quashed *qua* the petitioner.

12.12.2023
Anu

(PANKAJ JAIN)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned	:	Yes/No
Whether reportable	:	Yes/No