

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

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**CWP-22248-2023
Date of Decision: 04.10.2023**

MANMEET SINGH MONGA AND ANOTHER

... Petitioners

VERSUS

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA AND OTHERS

... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ.

Present: Ms. Shivya Sehgal, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Tarlok, Advocate for
Mr. Gaurav Goel, Advocate
for respondents No.2 and 3.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (ORAL)

Prayer in the present petition is for seeking issuance of directions to the respondents No.2 and 3 to permit the petitioners to operate the locker bearing No.1349 for the limited purpose of exchanging the currency notes of Rs.2,000/- denomination lying therein before the last date fixed for the exchange i.e. 07.10.2023.

Learned counsel for the petitioners contends that the currency notes of Rs.2,000/- denomination have been demonetized by the Reserve Bank of India and the same was a valid tender till 30.09.2023 as per the notification dated 19.05.2023. The said date for the exchange of the proposed demonetized currency notes of the denomination of Rs.2,000/- is extended till 07.10.2023. She contends that Gurdeep Singh Monga, father of the petitioners, passed away on 22.05.2022. The family was unaware that he was operating locker facility in

the State Bank of India, Civil Lines Branch, Ludhiana. The account number in State Bank of India, Civil Lines Branch, Ludhiana is 10883604694 and the locker number is 1349. The mother of the petitioners had predeceased their father on 12.06.2018. One Rattan Deep Singh son of Rajinder Singh Bawa, friend of the father of the petitioners, informed them recently that their deceased father had withdrawn some amount in the denomination of Rs.2,000/- and kept the same in the abovesaid locker. On coming to know of the same, the petitioners approached the Branch Manager of State Bank of India, Branch Civil Lines, Ludhiana alongwith the Succession Certificate seeking permission to operate the said locker facility, however, the same was not permitted by the Branch Manager. It is contended that in the event any currency notes of denomination of Rs.2,000/- are lying in the said locker, the said legal tender would be unworthy of any use after 07.10.2023 and that they may be permitted to withdraw the said amount and to exchange the same into a legal tender before the last date for such conversion.

Mr. Tarlok, Advocate enters appearance on behalf of respondents No.2 and 3 and acknowledges the existence of the abovesaid locker.

Taking into consideration the urgency involved in the present petition and also noticing that the last date for such exchange is 07.10.2023, this Court proposes to dispose of the present petition as counsel for respondents No.2 and 3 has already entered appearance. Service upon respondent No.1 and 4 is not necessary at this stage, in view of the order which this Court proposes to pass. The same is hence dispensed with at this stage.

The present petition is hereby disposed of with the following direction:

- (i) That the parties shall appear before the Branch Manager, State Bank of India, Civil Lines, Ludhiana on or before 06.10.2023.
- (ii) A copy of this order shall be sent/handed over to the concerned Police Station and on receipt thereof, the Station House Officer shall nominate a police officer not below the rank of Assistant Sub Inspector to join the opening of the locker alongwith the Branch Manager, State Bank of India, Civil Lines, Ludhiana.
- (iii) Locker shall be opened in the presence of the petitioners, the Branch Manager as well as the nominated police officer. Videography of the same will also be done at the cost of petitioners. In the event of any currency notes of denomination of Rs.2,000/- being found there, an inventory of the same shall be prepared in the presence of all above mentioned persons.
- (iv) The currency notes, if so found in the locker, shall be exchanged by the Branch Manager into the legal tender subject to guidelines of Reserve Bank of India and exchanged currency shall be put back into the abovementioned locker in the presence of the petitioners, Branch Manager and the nominated Assistant Sub Inspector, whereafter the Branch Manager shall lock the locker again.
- (v) The petitioners may, in the event of establishing their right to operate the said locker or withdraw the contents thereof, file appropriate proceedings before a Competent Court/Authority for seeking any further relief.

Petition stands disposed of accordingly.

Copy of this order be handed over to the counsel for the respective parties under the signatures of Bench Secretary of this Court.

OCTOBER 04, 2023
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(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

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