



Crl.O.P.(MD)No.18404 of 2024

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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 28.10.2024

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE K.MURALI SHANKAR

Crl.O.P.(MD)No.18404 of 2024

and

Crl.M.P.(MD)No.11424 of 2024

1.S.Saravanan

2.Saranathan

... Petitioners

Vs.

1.State of Tamil Nadu rep. by
The Inspector of Police,
Koodankulam Police Station,
Tirunelveli District.
(Crime No.279 of 2024)

2.Balakrishnan
Zonal Deputy Tahsildar,
Radhapuram,
Tirunelveli District.

... Respondents

PRAYER : Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 528 of BNSS, to call for the records relating to the impugned FIR in Crime No.279 of 2024 on the file of the first respondent therein and quash the same as against these petitioners concerned.



Crl.O.P.(MD)No.18404 of 2024

For Petitioners : Mr.K.Rajeshwaran

For R1 : Mr.E.Antony Sahaya Prabahar
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

The Criminal Original Petition has been filed, invoking Section 528 B.N.S.S., seeking orders to quash the FIR in Crime No.279 of 2024 pending on the file of the first respondent.

2. The petitioners are the accused 3 and 4 in Crime No.279 of 2024 on the file of Koodankulam Police Station, Tirunelveli.

3. It is evident from the records that on the basis of the complaint given by the second respondent/Zonal Deputy Thasildar, FIR came to be registered in Crime No.279 of 2024 on 04.07.2024 against one person for the alleged offences under Section 303(2) BNS and Section 21(1) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

4. The case of the prosecution is that the accused have transported minerals exceeding the limit.



Crl.O.P.(MD)No.18404 of 2024

WEB COPY

5. The main contention of the petitioners is that there was contract between the petitioners and the Sub Contractors and the Sub Contractors alone responsible for all the operations to be conducted in a safe manner and in compliance with all, state and local laws, rules and regulations and also produced the copy of the agreement entered into between the parties.

6. As rightly contended by the learned Additional Public Prosecutor, these aspects cannot be gone into at this stage and there are specific allegations levelled against the petitioners. Except the above, the petitioners have not canvassed any other reason or ground to quash the FIR.

7. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of ***State of Haryana and others Vs. Bhajan Lal and others*** reported in ***1992 SCC (Cri) 426*** has enumerated 7 categories of cases, where the power can be exercised under Section 482 of Code of Criminal Procedure and the same are extracted hereunder:-

“102. In the backdrop of the interpretation of the various relevant provisions of the Code under Chapter XIV and of the principles of law enunciated by this Court in a



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Crl.O.P.(MD)No.18404 of 2024

series of decisions relating to the exercise of the extraordinary power under Article 226 or the inherent powers under Section 482 of the Code which we have extracted and reproduced above, we give the following categories of cases by way of illustration wherein such power could be exercised either to prevent abuse of the process of any court or otherwise to secure the ends of justice, though it may not be possible to lay down any precise, clearly defined and sufficiently channelised and inflexible guidelines or rigid formulae and to give an exhaustive list of myriad kinds of cases wherein such power should be exercised.

(1) where the allegations made in the First Information Report or the complaint, even if they are taken at their face value and accepted in their entirety do not prima facie constitute any offence or make out a case against the accused;

(2) where the allegations in the First Information Report and other materials, if any, accompanying the F.I.R. do not disclose a cognizable offence, justifying an investigation by police officers under Section 156(1) of the Code except under an order of a Magistrate within the purview of Section 155(2) of the Code;

(3) where the uncontroverted allegations made



WEB COPY



Crl.O.P.(MD)No.18404 of 2024

in the FIR or 'complaint and the evidence collected in support of the same do not disclose the commission of any offence and make out a case against the accused;

(4) where the allegations in the FIR do not constitute a cognizable offence but constitute only a non-cognizable offence, no investigation is permitted by a police officer without an order of a Magistrate as contemplated under Section 155(2) of the Code;

(5) where the allegations made in the FIR or complaint are so absurd and inherently improbable on the basis of which no prudent person can ever reach a just conclusion that there is sufficient ground for proceeding against the accused;

(6) where there is an express legal bar engrafted in any of the provisions of the Code or the concerned Act (under which a criminal proceeding is instituted) to the institution and continuance of the proceedings and/or where there is a specific provision in the Code or the concerned Act, providing efficacious redress for the grievance of the aggrieved party;

(7) where a criminal proceeding is manifestly attended with mala fide and/or where the



Crl.O.P.(MD)No.18404 of 2024

proceeding is maliciously instituted with an ulterior motive for wreaking vengeance on the accused and with a view to spite him due to private and personal grudge.”

8. In ***Dr.Dhruvaram Murlidhar Sonar Vs. The State of Maharashtra and others*** reported in **2019 (18) SCC 191**, the Hon'ble Apex Court has specifically held that exercise of powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to quash the proceedings is an exception and not a rule. It is settled law that the inherent jurisdiction under Section 482 Cr.P.C. is wide but at the same time, the same is to be exercised sparingly, carefully and with caution and only when such exercise is justified by the tests specifically laid down in the Section itself.

9. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***Kaptan Singh Vs. The State of Uttar Pradesh and others*** reported in **2021 (3) Crimes 247** has stated that, that Court in catena of decisions has observed that the High Court is not required to go into the merits of the allegations and/or enter into the merits of the case as if the High Court is exercising the appellate jurisdiction and/or conducting the trial and that question is required to be



Crl.O.P.(MD)No.18404 of 2024

WEB COPY

examined keeping in view, the contents of FIR and *prima facie* materials, if any, requiring no proof and at such stage, the High Court cannot appreciate evidence nor can it draw its own inferences from contents of FIR and materials relied on.

10. It is pertinent to note that if the petition under Section 528 B.N.S.S., was filed at the stage of FIR, the allegations in the FIR/ complaint only are required to be considered and whether a cognizable offence is disclosed or not is required to be considered.

11. In the case on hand, as rightly contended by the learned Additional Public Prosecutor, a cursory perusal of the FIR makes out a *prima facie* case against the petitioners and contains specific allegations against the petitioners and it is a matter for investigation and as such, the question of quashing the FIR at this stage does not arise at all. Hence, this Court concludes that this is not a fit case to invoke Section 528 B.N.S.S., for quashing the FIR at this stage and the same is liable to be dismissed.



Crl.O.P.(MD)No.18404 of 2024

12. In the result, this Criminal Original Petition stands dismissed.

The petitioners are at liberty to produce the contract before the Investigating Officer and the Investigating Officer, while conducting case, is directed to take note of the contract. Consequently, connected Miscellaneous Petition is closed.

28.10.2024

NCC : Yes / No

Index : Yes / No

Internet : Yes / No

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To

1. The Inspector of Police,
Koodankulam Police Station,
Tirunelveli District.
2. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.



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Crl.O.P.(MD)No.18404 of 2024



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Crl.O.P.(MD)No.18404 of 2024

K.MURALI SHANKAR,J.

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