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

CRM-M-6980-2024

Date of Decision : 08-04-2024

Aruna Rai and another

.....Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of Punjab and others

.....Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PANKAJ JAIN

Present:- Ms. Priyanka Gupta, Advocate
for the petitioner(s).

Mr. J.S. Arora, DAG Punjab.

Mr. A.S. Jawandha, Advocate
For respondent Nos.2 and 3.

PANKAJ JAIN, J. (Oral)

1 By way of present petition, the petitioners are seeking quashing of
FIR No225 dated 25.10.2020 registered under Sections 406, 420 and
120-B of IPC, 1860 at Police Station Amargarh, District Sangrur and all
consequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise.

2 On 09.02.2024, the following order was passed:

“The present petition has been moved invoking jurisdiction of this Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C. by the petitioners seeking quashing of FIR No.225 dated 25.10.2020, registered for offences punishable under Sections 406/420/120-B IPC at Police Station Amargarh, District Sangrur.

Learned counsel for the petitioners contends that the matter already stands compromised vide Annexure P-2.

Notice of motion for 08.04.2024.

On asking of the Court, Mr. Tarun Aggarwal, Sr. DAG Punjab appears and accepts notice on behalf of respondent No.1-State. Mr. A.S. Jawandha, Advocate appears and accepts notice on behalf of respondent Nos.2 and 3 and admits the fact of there being compromise between the parties.

In view of the above, both the parties are directed to appear before learned Duty Magistrate/Illaq Magistrate/trial Court on 16.02.2024. On their doing so, the learned Duty Magistrate/Illaq Magistrate/trial Court 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 FIR.*
- 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 FIR.*

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 Duty Magistrate/Illaq Magistrate/trial Court

shall be at liberty to call the parties on any other date but not later than a week thereafter.”

3 Pursuant to the aforesaid order, report dated 16.03.2024 from Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Malerkotla has been received, which is taken on record. As per the report, the Trial Court has recorded as follows:-

“I have honour to submit that in compliance of order dated 09.02.2024 of the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh passed in CRM-M-6980-2024, complainants Hardeep Singh, & Inderjit Singh and accused Aruna Rai & Anmolpreet Singh have appeared and their statements regarding compromise in F.I.R. no. 225 dated 25.10.2020 under Sections 406,420 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, pertaining to P.S. Amargarh have been recorded. The report is submitted as under:

1. As per statement of I.O. and FIR there are total two accused arrayed in the present FIR, namely Aruna Rai and Anmolpreet Singh.

2. As per statement of I.O., no any accused is absconding or proclaimed offender in this case.

3. As per the statements of complainants Hardeep Singh & Inderjit Singh and accused Aruna Rai & Anmolpreet Singh, they have entered into compromise with their own free will and without any pressure or coercion or undue influence. The said compromise seems to be genuine, voluntary and out of free will of the parties.

4. As per the statement of I.O., accused of present case namely Aruna Rai and Anmolpreet Singh are not involved in any other criminal case.

5. As per statement of I.O. there are two complainants namely Hardeep Singh and Inderjit Singh, of the the present FIR.”

4 Learned counsel for respondent Nos.2 and 3 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 petitioners are quashed.

5 Similarly, learned State counsel has stated no objection in case the FIR is quashed based upon the compromise (**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 of the Code to quash proceeding recognizing compromise between parties 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 wiser 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 No225 dated 25.10.2020 registered under Sections 406, 420 and 120-B of IPC, 1860 at Police Station Amargarh, District Sangrur and all proceedings arising therefrom are hereby quashed *qua* the petitioners.

08-04-2024
spn

(PANKAJ JAIN)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes
Whether Reportable : No