



CRM-M-13543-2024 (O&M)

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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CRM-M-13543-2024 (O&M)

Date of decision: 10.09.2024

Ravinder Kumar

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana and another

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE KIRTI SINGH

Present:- Mr. Randeep S. Dhull, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Anmol Malik, DAG, Haryana.

KIRTI SINGH, J.(Oral)

The present petition under Section 482 of Code of Criminal Procedure has been filed for quashing of the order dated 06.09.2019 (Annexure P-4) passed by the learned JMIC, Karnal vide which the petitioner has been declared proclaimed offender in case NACT/1998/2021 titled as '*M/s Nuova Proteins P. Ltd. Vs. M/s Organics Feeds*' and FIR bearing No.117 dated 04.04.2021 (Annexure P-5) under Section 174-A IPC, registered at Police Station Madhuban, District Karnal.

2. Brief facts of the case are that complainant filed a criminal complaint, under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (for short "NI Act"), against the petitioner and due to non appearance before the learned Trial Court the petitioner was declared proclaimed offender vide order dated 06.09.2019 and the FIR in question was registered.



3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the parties have settled the dispute and the above stated complaint under Section 138 of NI Act stands withdrawn vide order dated 01.02.2022 (Annexure P-3). He further submits that once the main case has been settled and withdrawn, it would be in the interest of justice that the FIR in question may be quashed.

4. Reliance has been placed upon the decision rendered by the Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in “***Baldev Chand Bansal vs. State of Haryana and another***” CRM-M-43813-2018 and “***Jagdeep Virk vs. State of Haryana and another***”, CRM-M-29251-2018.

5. Learned State counsel has opposed the present petition and has submitted that the FIR has been correctly registered.

6. This Court has heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned State counsel and has perused the paper-book.

7. From the above-said facts and circumstances, it is apparent that the present FIR was registered in view of the fact that the petitioner was declared as a proclaimed offender in the proceeding under Section 138 of the Act of 1881. The impugned complaint under Section 138 of the Act of 1881 itself has been withdrawn.

8. A co-ordinate Bench of this Court in ***CRM-M-43813-2018*** titled as “***Baldev Chand Bansal vs. State of Haryana and another***”, decided on 29.01.2019 has held as under:-

“Prayer in this petition is for quashing of FIR No.64 dated 15.02.2017 filed under Section 174-A of the Indian Penal Code registered at Police Station Sector-5, Panchkula and all other subsequent proceedings arising thereof as well as order



dated 24.10.2016 passed by the trial Court vide which a direction was issued to register the aforesaid FIR.

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Learned counsel for the petitioner has relied upon the decisions rendered by this Court in “Vikas Sharma vs. Gurpreet Singh Kohli and another (supra), 2017, (3) L.A.R.584, Microqual Techno Limited and others Vs. State of Haryana and another, 2015 (32) RCR (Crl.) 790 and “Rajneesh Khanna Vs. State of Haryana and another” 2017(3) L.A.R. 555 wherein in an identical circumstance, this Court has held that since the main petition filed under Section 138 of the Act stands withdrawn in view of an amicable settlement between the parties, therefore, continuation of proceedings under Section 174A of IPC shall be nothing but an abuse of the process of law.

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In view of the same, I find merit in the present petition and accordingly, present petition is allowed and the impugned order dated 24.10.2016 passed by Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Panchkula as well as FIR No.64 dated 15.02.2017 registered under Section 174-A of the Indian Penal Code at Police Station Sector-5, Panchkula and all other subsequent proceedings arising thereof, are hereby quashed.”

9. A perusal of the above judgment would show that in a similar case where the FIR had been registered under Section 174-A IPC in view of the order passed in proceedings under Section 138 of the Act, while declaring the petitioner therein as proclaimed offender, a co-ordinate Bench after relying upon various judgments observed that once the main petition under Section 138 of the Act stands withdrawn in view of an amicable settlement between the parties, the continuation of

proceedings under Section 174-A IPC is nothing but an abuse of the process of law. The said aspect was one of the main consideration for allowing the petition and setting aside the order declaring the petitioner therein as proclaimed person as well as quashing of the FIR under Section 174-A IPC.

10. In the present case the proceedings under Section 138 NI Act have culminated in a settlement with the withdrawal of the complaint under Section 138 NI Act.

11. In view of the above, the present petition is allowed and the FIR bearing No.117 dated 04.04.2021 (Annexure P-5) under Section 174-A IPC, registered at Police Station Madhuban, District Karnal and order dated 06.09.2019 (Annexure P-4) passed by learned JMIC, Karnal, declaring the petitioner as proclaimed person in a complaint case under Section 138 Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 are hereby quashed, ***subject to the cost of Rs.10,000/- to be deposited in Poor Patient Welfare Fund, PGIMER, Chandigarh within two weeks.***

(KIRTI SINGH)
JUDGE

10.09.2024
Kapil

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