

CRM-M-48058-2021
Date of order: 13.02.2024

Lachman Dhodi @ Lachman Das

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and anr.

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE NIDHI GUPTA

Present:- Mr. Pushp Jain, Advocate for the petitioner.
Mr. Prabhdeep Singh Bhandari, AAG, Punjab.
Mr. Virat Rana, Advocate for respondent No.2.

Nidhi Gupta, J. (Oral)

Prayer in the present petition is for quashing of criminal complaint No.COMI/31/2018 dated 13.07.2018 (Annexure P/1) titled as "Satinder Kaur vs. Lachman Dhodi" under Sections 452, 354-A, 354-B, 354-C, 354-D, 341, 323, 506 and 504 IPC, pending before Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Sardulgarh and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise dated 14.10.2021(Annexure P-2) arrived at between the parties.

Vide order dated 21.09.2022, this Court had directed the parties to appear before the concerned Illaqa/Duty Magistrate on 18.10.2022 for getting their statements recorded in terms of certain parameters given in the aforesaid order with regard to the compromise dated 14.10.2021 (Annexure P-2).

In terms of the order dated 21.09.2022 passed by this Court, parties have appeared before the Court of learned Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Sardulgarh to get their statements recorded. Learned Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Sardulgarh has submitted his report dated

20.10.2022 along with the statements of the parties, which was duly forwarded by the learned District & Sessions Judge, Mansa to this Court on 26.10.2022.

A perusal of the above said report would show that the petitioner and respondent No.2 have appeared and suffered statements with respect to the compromise, which have been found to be voluntary, genuine, and without any coercion or undue influence.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that as per the report, neither the petitioner is involved in any other criminal case nor is he declared a absconder/proclaimed person in the present case. Moreover, the complainant/respondent No.2 has not lodged any FIR qua the alleged offences against the petitioner.

Learned State counsel states that he has no objection in case the criminal complaint is quashed on the basis of compromise dated 14.10.2021 (Annexure P-2) qua the petitioner.

Learned counsel for respondent No.2 has again reiterated that the matter has been settled and the said compromise is in the interest of all the persons and would help in bringing out peace and amity between the two parties.

This Court has heard learned counsel for the parties and has perused the file.

After perusing the report submitted by the learned Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Sardulgarh, this Court finds that the matter has been amicably settled between the petitioner and respondent No.2. Since the matter has been settled and the parties have decided to live in peace, this Court feels that in order to secure the ends of justice, the criminal

proceedings deserve to be quashed.

As per the Full Bench judgment of this Court in “**Kulwinder Singh and others Vs State of Punjab**”, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052, it is held that High Court has power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to allow the compounding of non-compoundable offence and quash the proceedings where the High Court is of the opinion that the same is required to prevent the abuse of the process of law or otherwise to secure the ends of justice. This power of quashing is not confined to matrimonial disputes alone.

Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of “**Gian Singh Vs. State of Punjab and another**”, 2012 (4) RCR (Criminal) 543, had also observed that in order to secure the ends of justice or to prevent the abuse of process of Court, inherent power can be used by this Court to quash criminal proceedings in which a compromise has been effected. The relevant portion of para 57 of the said judgment is reproduced hereinbelow:-

“57. The position that emerges from the above discussion can be summarised thus: the power of the High Court in quashing a criminal proceeding or FIR or complaint in exercise of its inherent jurisdiction is distinct and different from the power given to a criminal court for compounding the offences under Section 320 of the Code. Inherent power is of wide plenitude with no statutory limitation but it has to be exercised in accord with the guideline engrafted in such power viz; (i) to secure the ends of justice or (ii) to prevent abuse of the process of any Court.”

In view of what has been discussed hereinabove, the present petition is **allowed** and criminal complaint No.COMI/31/2018 dated

under Sections 452, 354-A, 354-B, 354-C, 354-D, 341, 323, 506 and 504 IPC, and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise dated 14.10.2021(Annexure P-2), are ordered to be quashed qua the petitioner.

(Nidhi Gupta)
Judge

13.02.2024
'Amit'

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