



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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CWP-24210-2024 (O&M)

Date of decision: 26.09.2024

Aradhna Jain

...Petitioner

VERSUS

Officer In charge/Superintendent Copying Agency, Jalandhar District
Courts, Jalandhar and others

...Respondents

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

Present :- Mr. Kunal Tandon, Advocate (through V.C.);
Ms. Pranjal P. Chaudhary, Advocate (through V.C.);
Ms. Aanchal Tandon, Advocate; and
Ms. Niti Jain, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Kiran Bala Jain, Advocate for respondent No. 3(ii).

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (Oral)

Prayer in the present petition is for issuance of appropriate directions to the respondents to supply the certified copies of the case file and proceedings in Civil Suit No.114 of 1982.

Power of attorney on behalf of respondent No. 3(ii) has been filed today in the Court and the same is taken on record.

Before proceeding further in the matter, this Court called for a report from the District and Sessions Judge, Jalandhar vide order dated 20.09.2024. In compliance thereof, a report bearing No.3676G/JRK dated 25.09.2024 has been received. The relevant extract of the same reads thus:



“Subject: Order dated 20.09.2024 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh, in case CWP-24210 of 2024 titled as 'Aradhna Jain Vs. Office Incharge/Supdt. Copying Agency Jalandhar & Ors.'

Sir,

This is in reference to the order dated 20.09.2024 passed by the Hon'ble High Court in case titled as 'Aradhna Jain Vs. Office Incharge/ Supdt. Copying Agency Jalandhar & Ors.' bearing CWP No.24210 of 2024 vide which the report of the undersigned was called in the matter.

In this regard, it is, respectfully, submitted that consequent upon receipt of order dated 20.09.2024, passed by the Hon'ble High Court, a report in the matter was called from the Officer Incharge, Judicial Copying Agency, Jalandhar, which is enclosed herewith.

A perusal of the report submitted by the Officer Incharge, Judicial Copying Agency, Jalandhar, shows that the Officer Incharge called the report of Examiner, Judicial Copying Agency (copy enclosed), who submitted that the applications No.6232 dated 05.07.2024 and No.7541 dated 20.07.2024 for supply of certified copies were filed by Sh.M.S.Sachdev Advocate and after preparing the certified copies thereof on 17.07.2024 and 07.08.2024, the same were supplied. Learned Officer further submitted that Sh.Niti Jain



Advocate filed three applications bearing No.12096, 12097 dated 12.09.2024 and No.12355 dated 16.09.2024 for supply of certified copies of all the documents filed by the plaintiff, all the documents filed by the defendants, all order sheets, all written statement, all evidences, all written arguments and certified copy of judgment and further submitted that the applicant has not given any detail of any specific document of which certified copy is required as the certified copy of only exhibited/original documents can be supplied to the applicant and no certified copy of photostat document can be supplied.

Further the perusal of the report of Ms. Chandni, Copyist, annexed with the report submitted by the learned Officer Incharge reveals that the case file bearing Civil Suit No.114 of 1982 titled as 'Vidya Parkash Vs. Charanit Lal & Ors.,' decided on 29.03.1985 by the Court of Sh.A.B Singh Vasu, the then learned Senior Sub Judge Jalandhar', shows that it has been submitted by the Copyist that the record of said case is 42 years old and it contains thousands of pages and each page of the file is so delicate and in deteriorated condition, and on rough touch it crumbles. She further submitted that it is not possible to get xerox copies through photostat machine and has to be dealt diligently and also it is time taking process and earlier also, the copies were supplied



in this case by scanning on the mobile phone through scanning app and the same process will be followed for providing the certified copies of documents for which she prayed for grant of sufficient time so that the certified copies of the record be prepared.

It is, respectfully, submitted that as per the report submitted by the Examiner, Judicial Copying Agency, the certified copies as sought vide application No.6232 dated 05.07.2024 and application No.7541 dated 20.07.2024 were prepared on 17.07.2024 and 07.08.2024 respectively. Now, the applicant has filed application No.12096 dated 12.09.2024, application No. 12097 dated 12.09.2024 and application No. 12355 dated 16.09.2024 and the process of preparing the certified copies of documents, as per rules, is in progress and the copyist has sought some time to prepare and supply the certified copies.

Thus, keeping in view above, it is, respectfully, submitted that the process of preparing the certified copies in the applications No.12096 dated 12.09.2024, No.12097 dated 12.09.2024 and No.12355 dated 16.09.2024 is in progress and the undersigned has directed the Incharge. Copying Agency, to supply the certified copies of the documents as per rules as early as possible and all efforts shall be made to supply the



certified copies within twenty (20) days from today or as per the directions issued by the Hon'ble High Court.

Report is submitted as directed.”

It is thus evident from a perusal of the above report that the Filing Section has raised no objection to supply copies of exhibited/original documents that have been proved on record of the case file but the needful has not been done since the description of the specific documents have not been given. So far as the documents in Civil Suit No.114/1982 are concerned, it has been reported that the case is more than 42 years old and it contains thousands of pages. Each page being delicate and in deteriorated condition, the Xerox thereof cannot be obtained through a Xerox machine. Accordingly, the Dealing employees of the Branch are making the copies available by taking the photos on the mobile phone and then processing them through the scanning app. The said process is going to take some time in order to satisfy petitioner's prayer for supply of the documents.

It is also reported that certified copies as sought by the applications dated 05.07.2024 and 20.07.2024 have already been prepared. Subsequent applications were also filed on 12.09.2024 and 16.09.2024 and that the Copying Branch is in the process of preparing the certified copy of the documents as per rules.

Learned counsel for respondent No.3(ii) has also entered appearance at this stage and submits that she has no objection to the certified



copies of the documents as asked for by the petitioner and if the petitioner applies, the same would be supplied.

I have heard the learned counsel appearing on behalf of the respective parties and noticing that the District and Sessions Judge, Jalandhar has sought 20 days time for supplying the copy of the documents as per Rules. The present petition is disposed of with a direction to the authorities to supply the copies within a period of 20 days as sought for by virtue of the aforesaid report.

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

26.09.2024

Mangal Singh

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