

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

201-1

CRM-M-54732-2023
Date of decision : 27.02.2024

Rahul Dureja Petitioner

versus

State of Punjab Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PANKAJ JAIN

Present: Mr. Kunwar Rajan, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Tarun Aggarwal, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

PANKAJ JAIN, J. (Oral)

1. The present petition has been filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. seeking quashing of FIR No.157 dated 23.10.2017, registered for the offence punishable under Section 174-A IPC, at Police Station Kabarwala, District Sri Muktsar Sahib.
2. Ld. Counsel for the petitioner refers to order dated 21.01.2023 passed by the Court of JMIC, Malout to contend that after the principal complaint filed under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (for short, 'the N.I. Act') stood compromised, as a natural corollary thereof the present proceedings under Section 174-A IPC cannot be allowed to continue as the same were initiated on the basis of the petitioner not appearing before the Trial Court in the proceedings initiated under Section 138 of the N.I. Act only.
3. Having heard counsel for the parties, in the considered opinion of this Court the question as to whether proceedings under

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Section 174-A IPC can be allowed to continue after the principal complaint filed under Section 138 of the N.I. Act already stands settled and withdrawn, is no more *res integra* and has been answered by a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in **CRM-M-43813-2018** titled as “**Baldev Chand Bansal Vs. State of Haryana and another**” vide order dated 29th of Janaury, 2019, which 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.”

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4. Same is the view of another Co-ordinate Bench in the “Ashok Madaan vs. State of Haryana and another” reported as 2020 (4) RCR (Criminal) 87, wherein it has been held that:

“No doubt, the learned counsel for the respondent has vehemently argued that the offence under Section 174-A I.P.C. is independent of the main case, therefore, merely because the main case has been dismissed for want of prosecution, the present petition cannot be allowed, however, keeping in view the fact that the present FIR was registered only on account of absence from the proceedings in the main case which had been subsequently regularised by the court while granting bail to the petitioner, the default stood condoned. In such circumstances, continuation of proceedings under Section 174A I.P.C. shall be abuse of the process of court.

7. Accordingly, the petition is allowed. FIR No. 446 dated 21.08.2017, registered under Section 174A I.P.C. at Police Station Kotwali, District Faridabad, as well as consequential proceedings shall stand quashed.”

5. Keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the present case and in view of the principles settled by this Court, the present petition is allowed. Order dated 21.01.2023 passed by the Court of JMIC, Malout (Annexure P-16) and the consequential FIR No.157 dated 23.10.2017, registered for the offence punishable under Section 174-A IPC, at Police Station Kabarwala, District Sri Muktsar Sahib, are hereby quashed qua the present petitioner.

(PANKAJ JAIN)
JUDGE

27.02.2024
Dinesh

Whether speaking/reasoned :	Yes
Whether Reportable :	No