

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

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CRM-M-57026-2022 (O&M)

Date of order: 27.02.2024

Darshna Rani & Others

.....Petitioner(s)

Vs.

State of Punjab & Another

.....Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE NIDHI GUPTAPresent:- Mr. Pankaj Bali, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Sukhsandesh Singh Chahal, AAG Punjab.

Mr. Ankit Aggarwal, Advocate
for respondent No.2.

Nidhi Gupta, J.

The prayer in this petition is for quashing of FIR No.353 dated 14.10.2021 (Annexure P-1) under Sections 406 and 498-A IPC registered at Police Station City Kharar, District SAS Nagar and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise dated 18.08.2022 (Annexure P-2) arrived at between the parties.

Vide order dated 07.12.2022, a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court had directed the parties to appear before Illaqa Magistrate for getting their statements recorded in terms of certain parameters given in the aforesaid order dated 07.12.2022 with regard to the compromise dated 18.08.2022 (Annexure P-2).

In terms of the order dated 07.12.2022, passed by a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court, parties have appeared before the Court of learned Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Kharar and as per his report

dated 17.02.2023 submitted to this Court, both the parties have got recorded their respective statements in Court.

A perusal of the above said report would show that petitioner No.1 and petitioner No.2 appeared, with petitioner No.2 appearing on her behalf as well as her brother i.e. petitioner No.3, as his Special Power of Attorney, as he lives in Italy; and suffered statements with respect to the compromise, which have been found to be voluntary, genuine, and out of free will.

Learned counsel for the petitioners inter alia submits that present FIR emanates from a matrimonial dispute between the parties, however, the same has been compromised between them. Present FIR was registered by respondent No.2/complainant against present petitioners who are mother-in-law, sister-in-law and husband of respondent No.2/complainant, respectively. All the accused are party to the compromise dated 18.08.2022 (Annexure P2). It is further submitted that the petitioners were not declared proclaimed offenders in the present case.

Learned State Counsel and learned counsel for respondent No.2/complainant do not dispute the above said submissions made by learned counsel for the petitioners.

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

After perusing the report submitted by the Illaqa Magistrate, this Court finds that the matter has been amicably settled between the petitioners and the complainant. 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, this petition is **allowed** and FIR No.353 dated 14.10.2021 (Annexure **P-1**) under

Sections 406 and 498-A IPC registered at Police Station City Kharar, District SAS Nagar and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise dated 18.08.2022 (Annexure P-2) arrived at between the parties, are ordered to be quashed qua the petitioners.

Petition stands disposed of.

Pending application(s) if any also stand(s) disposed of.

27.02.2024

Sunena

(Nidhi Gupta)

Judge

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