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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH
(282)

CRM-M-63034-2023 (O & M)
Date of decision:14.05.2024

Kuldeep @ Kuldeep Sharma @ Kuldeep Kumar Petitioner
V/s
State of Haryana ...Respondent

CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE JASJIT SINGH BEDI

Present: Mr. Sudhir Rana, Advocate,
for the petitioner.
Ms. Aditi Girdhar, AAG, Haryana.

JASJIT SINGH BEDI, J. (Oral)

The prayer in the present petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. is for quashing of the order dated 09.05.2019 (Annexure P-1) whereby the petitioner was declared a proclaimed offender, the consequential FIR No.1399 dated 29.07.2019 under Section 174-A IPC, Police Station Shivaji Nagar, Gurugram, District Gurugram (Annexure P-4) and the order framing charges dated 31.05.2022 (Annexure P-5).

2. The brief facts of the case are that M/s India Infoline Housing Limited had filed a private complaint under Section 25 of the Payments and Settlements System Act, 2007 through its authorized person against the petitioner titled as ‘M/s India Infoline Housing Finance Limited versus



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Kuldeep Kumar” bearing No.NACT-1752 of 2017 dated 31.01.2017 before the Court of Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Gurugram.

3. As the petitioner did not appear in the said proceedings, he was declared a proclaimed person vide order dated 09.05.2019 (Annexure P-1).

4. When the petitioner came to know about the pendency of the above complaint (NACT-1752-2017), he paid the entire cheque amount, effected a settlement, consequent to which the aforesaid complaint was revived vide order dated 02.05.2022 (Annexure P-2) and the aforesaid complaint came to be withdrawn vide order dated 14.05.2022 (Annexure P-3).

5. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the present FIR came to be registered against the petitioner due to his non-appearance in the aforementioned complaint. Thereafter, the matter was compromised between the parties and the petitioner- accused/Kuldeep @ Kuldeep Sharma @ Kuldeep Kumar had made the payment of the entire due amount to the complainant-company. On 02.05.2022, the learned counsel for the complainant-company appeared before the Trial Court and got recorded his statement that he did not want to proceed further with the complaint and wanted to withdraw the same. Based on the said statement, the complaint was dismissed as withdrawn vide order dated 14.05.2022 (Annexure P-3). Therefore, the impugned orders were liable to be quashed.

6. The learned State counsel has opposed the present petition and has submitted that the FIR had been correctly registered.



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

8. 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 person in the proceeding under Section 25 of the Payments and Settlements System Act, 2007. The impugned complaint under Section 25 of the Payments and Settlements System Act, 2007 itself has been withdrawn.

9. 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*



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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.”

10. 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 a 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 considerations for allowing the petition and setting aside the order declaring the petitioner therein as a proclaimed person as well as for quashing of the FIR under Section 174-A IPC.



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11. Another co-ordinate Bench of this Court in a case titled as “*Ashok Madan vs. State of Haryana and another*” reported as 2020(4) RCR (Criminal) 87 has also held as under:-

“No doubt, the learned counsel for the respondent has vehemently argued that the offence under Section 174A 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.”

12. A perusal of the relevant extract of the above judgment would show that where the main case was dismissed for want of prosecution, it was observed that the continuation of proceedings under Section 174-A IPC shall be an abuse of the process of court. A similar view has been expressed by this Court in “Anil Kumar Versus Jitender Kumar and another, CRM-M-5878-2022 decided on 06.04.2022”, “Anil Kumar Versus Jitender Kumar and another, CRM-M-5755-2022 decided on 06.04.2022” and “Varinder



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Kumar @ Virender Kumar Versus State of Haryana and another, CRM-M-42551-2021 decided on 19.04.2022”.

13. In the present case the proceedings under Section 25 of the Payments and Settlements System Act, 2007 have culminated in a settlement with the withdrawal of the complaint under Section 25 of the Payments and Settlements System Act, 2007.

14. In view of the above, the present petition is allowed and subject to a deposit of Rs.15,000/- as costs with the Sadhna Society for the Mentally Handicapped, Near Housing Board Chowk, Raen Basera Building Manimajra, Sector 13, Chandigarh, the impugned order dated 09.05.2019 (Annexure P-1) whereby the petitioner was declared a proclaimed offender, the consequential FIR No.1399 dated 29.07.2019 under Section 174-A IPC, Police Station Shivaji Nagar, Gurugram, District Gurugram (Annexure P-4), the order framing charges dated 31.05.2022 (Annexure P-5) and all other subsequent proceedings arising therefrom are hereby quashed qua the petitioner only.

15. Since the main petition has been disposed of, no order needs to be passed in the CRM application, if any.

(JASJIT SINGH BEDI)
JUDGE

May 14, 2024
sukhpreet

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No