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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-63376-2023

Date of Decision : April 03, 2024

Milanjot Singh @ Milan @ Manni

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana and others

.....Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PANKAJ JAIN

Present:- Mr. Ravi Malik, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Ramesh Kumar Ambavta, AAG, Haryana.

Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Advocate for respondent Nos. 2 and 3.

PANKAJ JAIN, J. (Oral)

1 By way of present petition, the petitioner is seeking quashing of FIR No.325 dated 08.11.2023 registered under Section 420 (Sections 467/468/471/201 IPC added lateron), at Police Station Barara Ambala, District Ambala, Haryana and all consequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise.

2 On 16.12.2023, the following order was passed:

“The present petition has been moved invoking jurisdiction of this Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C by the petitioner seeking quashing of FIR No.325 dated 08.11.2023, registered for offence punishable under Section 420 IPC (Sections 467/468/471/201 IPC added later on), at Police Station Barara, Ambala, District Ambala, Haryana.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the

matter already stands compromised vide Annexure P-2.

Notice of motion for 03.04.2024.

On the asking of the Court, Mr. Gaurav Bansal, DAG, Haryana accepts notice on behalf of respondent No.1-State. Mr. M.S.Rana, Advocate & Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Advocate appears and accepts notice on behalf of respondents No.2 & 3 respectively and admit the fact of there being a compromise between the parties.

In view of the above, both the parties are directed to appear before learned Duty Magistrate/Illaq Magistrate/trial Court on 29.01.2024. On their doing so, the learned Duty Magistrate/Illaq Magistrate/trial Court shall record their statements and furnish its report to this Court by the next date of hearing on the following aspects:-

- 1. Number of persons arrayed as accused in the FIR.*
- 2. Whether any accused is proclaimed offender?*
- 3. Whether the compromise is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence?*
- 4. Whether the accused persons are involved in any other case or not?*
- 5. The trial Court is also directed to record the statement of the Investigating Officer as to how many victims/complainants are there in the FIR.*

A copy of the report be also sent to the Registrar Judicial of this Court.

Needless to say that in case for any reason the statements are not recorded on the aforesaid date, the learned Duty Magistrate/Illaq Magistrate/trial Court shall be at liberty to call the parties on any other date but not later than a week thereafter.”

3 Pursuant to the aforesaid order, report dated 01.02.2024 from Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Ambala has been received, which is taken on record. As per the report, the Trial Court has recorded as follows:-

"I have the honour to refer to the directions issued by the Hon'ble High Court vide order dated 16.12.2023, passed by Hon'ble High Court in CRM-M-63376-2023 titled as "Milanjot Singh @ Milan @ Mani Versus State of Haryana & Ors.", whereby the parties were directed to appear before the Ld. Duty Magistrate/Illaq Magistrate/Trial Court on 29.01.2024, for recording their statements. Complainant Tej Pal & Ankita as well as accused/respondent Milanjot Singh @ Milan @ Mani have come present today i.e. 29.01.2024 in the court. Their separate statements to the effect that they have compromised the matter with each other voluntarily without any coercion or undue influence, pressure etc. from any side have been recorded. Statement of ASI Irshad Ali No.138, PS Barara, District Ambala, has also been record to the effect that on the complaint of complainant Tej Pal, present FIR was registered against accused Milanjot Singh @ Milan @ Mani and except the present case, no other case is pending/registered against him. There is no other accused in the present case. Neither the accused has ever been declared as proclaimed offender, nor such proceedings are pending against him. There is only one complainant in present case namely Tej Pal son of Ram Swroop. There is no other victim in present case.

As such, from statements of the parties, I am of the opinion that the compromise arrived between the complainant and the aforesaid accused is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence. Report in the matter along-with original statements, photo-state copies of Aadhar-cards of the parties and photo copy of compromise Mark-A are enclosed here-with for consideration of the Hon'ble High Court, please."

4 Learned counsel for respondent Nos.2 and 3 admits the fact of parties having compromised and states that he has no objection in case the FIR and all proceedings subsequent thereto against the petitioner is quashed.

5 Similarly, learned State counsel has stated no objection in case the FIR is quashed based upon the compromise (**Annexure P-2**).

6 I have heard learned Counsel for the parties and have carefully gone through the records of the case.

7 This Court and Apex Court has repeatedly dealt with the issue of exercise of jurisdiction under Section 482 of the Code to quash proceeding recognizing compromise between parties in non-compoundable offences in the cases of ***Gian Singh vs. State of Punjab and another, 2012(10) SCC 303, State of Madhya Pradesh vs. Laxmi Narayan and others (2019) 5 SCC 688, Kulwinder Singh & others vs. State of Punjab & another, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052 and Ram Gopal and another vs. State of Madhya Pradesh, 2021(4) R.C.R. (Criminal) 322 (Criminal Appeal No.1489 of 2012 decided on 29th of September, 2021).*** The proposition of law that emerges from the aforesaid decisions rendered by Apex Court and this Court is :

- (a) *Power u/s 482 Cr.P.C. vested with this Court is much wiser and is unaffected by Section 320 of the Code.*
- (b) *However, wider the power greater the caution.*
- (c) *The underlining principle while exercising such power is that it can be invoked to quash the proceedings recognizing compromise between the parties in the matters which are overwhelmingly and predominantly of civil character like commercial transactions or arising out of matrimonial relationship or family disputes.*
- (d) *The said power is not to be exercised in the prosecutions involving heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity etc. as such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society.*
- (e) *Section 482 Cr.P.C. casts duty upon the High Court to advance interest of justice as well. It is in recognition of this duty casted upon the High Court, that Apex Court held that the High Court would not refuse to quash FIR under Section 307 merely because FIR finds mention thereof. High Court can assess nature of injuries sustained, whether such injuries inflicted on vital/delicate parts of the body/nature of weapons used etc.*

(f) *Such exercise at the hands of High Court would be permissible only after the evidence is collected after investigation and chargesheet is filed/charges framed during the trial. Such exercise cannot be carried out while the matter is still under investigation.*

(g) *While quashing FIR in non-compoundable offences even which are of private in nature, High Court is required to consider antecedents of the accused, conduct of the accused and whether he was absconding or whether he has managed the complainant to enter into a compromise.*

8 Thus, keeping in view the aforesaid facts and circumstances, this Court is of the considered opinion that it is a fit case to exercise jurisdiction vested u/s 482 Cr.P.C. to quash the FIR as :-

(i) *The present matter does not fall within the exceptions as carved out in **Laxmi Narayan's** case (supra) i.e. heinous offence.*

(ii) *The offences alleged are of private nature.*

(iii) *The parties have compromised.*

(iv) *As per the report received the compromise is said to be voluntary in its nature.*

(v) *Complainant/victim is reported to have entered into compromise on his own volition.*

9 Consequently, the petition is allowed. FIR No.325 dated 08.11.2023 registered under Section 420 (Sections 467/468/471/201 IPC added lateron), at Police Station Barara Ambala, District Ambala, Haryana and all proceedings arising therefrom are hereby quashed *qua* the petitioner.

(PANKAJ JAIN)
JUDGE

03.04.2024

spn

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether Reportable :

Yes
No

