



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

CWP-8028-2021 (O&M)
Date of decision: 10.11.2025

Balesh Rani and another

.....Petitioners

Versus

District Magistrate, U.T., Chandigarh and others

.....Respondents

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJIV BERRY**

Present: Mr. Aazam Khan, Advocate,
for Mr. Parveen Kumar Garg, Advocate,
for the petitioners.

Mr. Nitesh Jhalaria, Advocate,
and Ms. Divya Arora, Advocate,
for respondent No.3-bank.

SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE (Oral)

1. The petitioners, who are borrowers, have approached this Court challenging the order dated 23.03.2021 (Annexure P-2) passed u/s 14 of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (for short SARFAESI Act), on various grounds.

2. The Apex Court has consistently held that High Courts should refrain from interfering under Article 226 of the Constitution in SARFAESI proceedings. The SARFAESI Act, 2002 is a complete code which not only provides for a detailed

recovery mechanism but also remedies before the Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) and thereafter, Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT).

3. From the averments in the petition, it does not appear that the petitioners have availed the statutory alternative remedy of approaching the DRT and/or DRAT.

4. This Court, while taking cognizance of this matter as early as on 08.04.2021, had restrained the bank from taking any coercive steps, subject to the petitioners/borrowers depositing Rs.50,000/-, which condition was complied with by the petitioners. It appears that the interim order of stay is continuing till date.

5. In view of above and the ratio laid down by Apex Court in **United Bank of India vs. Satyawati Tondon, (2010) AIR SC 3413 (Para 17, 27) ; Phoenix ARC Private Limited vs. Vishwa Bharati Vidya Mandir and others, (2022) 5 SCC 345 (Paras 10, 21) ;PHR Invent Educational Society versus UCO Bank and others, 2024 (6)SCC 579 (Paras 22 to 41)**, this Court refrains from exercise of jurisdiction under Article 226 of Constitution.

6. Accordingly, the petitioners are relegated to avail the appropriate statutory remedy under the SARFAESI Act before the DRT and thereafter, before DRAT. In case the petitioners prefer an application under Section 17 of SARFAESI Act within a period of 30 days from today along with copy of this order, the

same shall be considered and decided on its own merits, without being dismissed on limitation alone.

7. Interim relief granted in the present petition vide order dated 08.04.2021, shall continue till DRT takes fresh decision on the question of interim relief, provided the petitioners approach DRT within 30 days, failing which, the interim relief shall lose its effect. It is made clear that if, petitioners approach the Tribunal within the prescribed stipulated time, then this order shall not prejudice the mind of Tribunal while deciding the question of interim relief, if admissible to the petitioners. We further make it clear that the Tribunal shall decide the request for interim relief strictly on merits of the matter, without being influenced by the fact of petitioners, having approached this Court or this Court having passed the present order.

8. Accordingly, the writ petition stands disposed of with aforesaid liberty without commenting on merits, without cost.

8.1. Pending applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

(SHEEL NAGU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

(SANJIV BERRY)
JUDGE

November 10, 2025
Ajay Prasher

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