



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

CRM-M-60976-2025 (O&M)

Date of decision: 19.11.2025

TRIBHUVAN PARNAMI

....Petitioner

Versus

MEENAKSHI BHUTANI

....Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL

Present:- Mr. Manish Soni, Advocate for the petitioner.

.....

RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL, J. (ORAL)

1. Instant criminal revision has been filed for quashing/setting aside of order dated 13.03.2023 (Annexure P-3) passed by the Court of learned Additional Sessions Judge, Gurugram in CRA-136-2023 titled as '*Tribhuvan Parnami Vs. Meenakshi Bhutani*' to the extent of imposition of onerous condition of depositing 20% of the total amount of compensation of Rs.47,00,000/- while granting the benefit of suspension of sentence along with all the subsequent proceedings arising therefrom.

2. Vide judgment of conviction and order on quantum of sentence dated 08.07.2022 passed by learned Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Gurugram, the petitioner was convicted and sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of 09 months and was further directed to pay compensation to the tune of Rs.47,00,000/- to the complainant, along with default mechanism. Thereafter, the petitioner preferred an appeal against the said judgment of conviction and order of sentence before the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Gurugram. The learned Appellate Court vide



order dated 13.03.2023 suspended the sentence of the petitioner subject to depositing 20% of the compensation.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner *inter alia* contends that the learned Appellate Court failed to appreciate the facts in the right perspective and imposed the condition to deposit 20% of the compensation amount and such a condition is illegal, arbitrary and in violation of the law as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Criminal Appeal Nos.2741 of 2023 (@ SLP(Crl.) Nos. 4927 of 2023 *Jamboo Bhandari vs. M.P. State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. and others***, decided on 04.09.2023. Speaking through Justice Abhay S. Oka, it has been held as follows:-

“6. What is held by this Court is that a purposive interpretation should be made of Section 148 of the N.I. Act. Hence, normally, Appellate Court will be justified in imposing the condition of deposit as provided in Section 148. However, in a case where the Appellate Court is satisfied that the condition of deposit of 20% will be unjust or imposing such a condition will amount to deprivation of the right of appeal of the appellant, exception can be made for the reasons specifically recorded.

7. Therefore, when Appellate Court considers the prayer under Section 389 of the Cr.P.C. of an petitioner who has been convicted for offence under Section 138 of the N.I. Act, it is always open for the Appellate Court to consider whether it is an exceptional case which warrants grant of suspension of sentence without imposing the condition of deposit of 20% of the fine/compensation amount. As stated earlier, if the Appellate Court comes to the conclusion that it is an



exceptional case, the reasons for coming to the said 4 conclusion must be recorded.”

4. Having heard learned counsel for the petitioner and after perusing the judgment passed in **Jamboo Bhandari (supra)**, the learned Appellate Court was required to consider whether the case of the petitioner is an exceptional case which warrants grant of suspension of sentence without imposing the condition of deposit of 20% fine/compensation amount. The impugned order dated 13.03.2023 is hereby set aside to the extent of imposing the condition of depositing 20% of compensation amount. The learned Appellate Court is directed to re-examine the case after granting an opportunity to the petitioner to make submissions regarding the exceptional circumstances and decide whether it is an appropriate case that warrants waiver of the requirement of deposit of 20% of the compensation awarded by learned trial Court.

5. The matter is remanded back to the learned Appellate Court with a direction to decide the matter afresh in accordance with law in the light of judgment passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Jamboo Bhandari's case (supra)**.

7. The petition is disposed of accordingly.

8. Pending miscellaneous application (if any), shall also stand disposed of.

(RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL)
JUDGE

19.11.2025
Mohit Bishnoi