



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

146

CRM-M-16786-2026

Date of Decision: 30.03.2026

NARINDER SINGH

.....PETITIONER

Versus

JOGINDER PAL

..... RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SURYA PARTAP SINGH

Present: Mr. Rohit Joshi, Advocate
for the petitioner.

SURYA PARTAP SINGH, J. (Oral):

1. The present petition has been filed by the petitioner against the order dated 24.12.2025, passed by learned Additional Sessions Judge, Hoshiarpur, hereinafter referred to as 'Appellate Court', whereby the application for suspension of sentence, moved by the petitioner, has been allowed and the sentence awarded to the petitioner has been suspended. However the order of suspension of sentence is subject to the condition of deposit of 20% of the fine/compensation imposed by learned trial Court within a period of 60 days.

2. In nut-shell the facts emerging from record are that the petitioner faced a trial in a complaint case titled as 'Joginder Pal Vs. Narinder Singh' for the commission of offence punishable under Section 138 of Negotiable Instrument Act 1881 and the abovementioned trial culminated into conviction of the petitioner. Accordingly, the learned trial Court



sentenced the petitioner to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of 01 year as well as fine of Rs.1000/- and pay compensation to the tune of Rs.8,00,000/- alongwith interest @ 6% per annum.

3. Aggrieved of the abovementioned order, when the petitioner filed an appeal in the Court of Sessions, the learned Appellate Court by virtue of impugned order dated 24.12.2025 suspended the sentence awarded to the petitioner, but subject to the condition in view of Section 148 of the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act 2018, that the petitioner will have to deposit an amount equivalent to 20% of the amount of compensation within a period of 60 days.

4. Heard.

5. The learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the learned Appellate Court, while imposing the abovementioned condition, did not give any opportunity to the petitioner to explain his hardship and that without giving an opportunity of being heard, the abovementioned harsh condition has been imposed. According to learned counsel for the petitioner, the learned Appellate Court has failed to appreciate that the learned trial Court has committed a grave error when it directed to pay compensation of Rs.8,00,000/- which in no way, can be termed to be justified.

6. While referring to the principles of law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a case of '**Jamboo Bhandari v. M.P. State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. and others**', learned counsel for the petitioner has contended that the learned Appellate Court was duty bound to give an opportunity to the petitioner to explain the circumstances and pass a reasonable order with regard to deposit of compensation or any part



thereof. According to learned counsel for the petitioner, since any opportunity of being heard was not afforded to the petitioner, by the learned Appellate Court, the instant case may be remanded back to the learned Appellate Court for passing a fresh order after hearing the petitioner.

7. The record has been perused carefully.

8. A perusal of record shows that in this case, the amount of compensation awarded by the learned trial Court is Rs.8,00,000/- and if the condition imposed by the learned Appellate Court, i.e. deposit of 20% of amount of compensation, is complied with, it may amount to hardship to the petitioner. In addition to above, it is also relevant to note that the abovesaid order has been passed without giving an opportunity of being heard to the petitioner.

9. Without issuing any notice to the respondent(s), lest it may delay the proceedings, the present petition is accepted. The impugned order is set aside. The learned Appellate Court is directed to pass a fresh order in the light of the law explained by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***Jamboo Bhandari's*** case (*supra*).

10. Since this order has been passed in the absence of the respondent(s), the respondent(s) will be at liberty to approach this Court, in case the respondent(s) is aggrieved by this order.

(SURYA PARTAP SINGH)
JUDGE

30.03.2026

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