
T.S. Chhatwal Vs Alaknanda Talkies And Ors

CR No. 51 Of 2015

Court: Chhattisgarh High Court

Date of Decision: June 27, 2018

Hon'ble Judges: Thottathil B. Radhakrishnan, CJ

Bench: Single Bench

Advocate: Syed Ishhadel Ali, Naushina Afrin Ali, Manoj Paranjpe, U.N.S. Deo

Final Decision: Allowed

Judgement

Thottathil B. Radhakrishnan, CJ

1. Heard the learned counsel for the Revision Petitioner (Applicant) and the Non- Applicants, who are the Plaintiff and the State Government and its

officials.

2. The 1st Respondent/Plaintiff was running an establishment 'Alaknanda Talkies'.

The Applicant/ 1st Defendant was the licensing authority in terms of the M.P. Cinemas (Regulation) Rules,1972; hereinafter referred to as the 'Rules'.

Stated to be in exercise of his statutory authority, he took certain actions against the Plaintiff and his establishment Alaknanda Talkies. The suit was

filed alleging that such action which included cancellation of licence and closure of Alaknanda Talkies was without the authority of law and

defeasance of a telephonic communication regarding the stay of cancellation of licence. The Plaintiff claimed that he suffered loss of Rs.16,368/- and

sought to recover that amount by way of compensation from Defendants namely the State of Chhattisgarh and its officers, the Applicant in this

revision.

3. The Trial Court decreed the suit as against all the Defendants. The State which had not filed written statement, taking any contradictory stand as

against the 1 st Defendant licensing authority, chose to file an appeal. The lower Appellate Court interfered with the decree of the Trial Court and

confined the decree to be one as against the 1st Defendant, thereby exonerating the State. The 1 st Defendant has filed this revision challenging that

appellate decision.

4. Having regard to the contentions raised, to the pointed query from the Bench, it is submitted that the 1st Defendant alone had filed written

statement. Apparently, there was no conflict of plea, as between Defendant No.1 who was the licensing authority and the State, before the Trial

Court. There was no question of the Trial Court adjudicating an issue as to whether the 1 st Defendant/Revision Petitioner was liable, notwithstanding

the liability of the State. There was also no necessity, on the basis of the pleading, for the Trial Court to adjudicate as to whether a decree could be

passed, personally, as against Defendant No.1.

5. It is not in dispute that the Revision Petitioner/ 1 st Defendant was the licensing authority under the provisions of the Rules. It is also not in dispute

that the establishment of the Plaintiff, namely; Alaknanda Talkies, was governed by the provisions of that piece of law. Even if it is a case of

excessive exercise of administrative power; including statutory; the basis on which penalty by way of compensation for illegal action of an official

could be handed down, is not seen established in the case in hand, going by the materials on record. In fact the Trial Court had recorded the finding

that the 1 st Defendant had exercised due statutory power and that he had not abused such authority and power. This is clear from the findings under

issue No.2, going by the judgment of the Trial Court. That position notwithstanding; there was no conflict of interest between the State Government

and 1st Defendant/Revision Petitioner before the Trial Court. This way also, there was no ground for the lower appellate Court to have interfered with

the decision of the Trial Court, adverse to the First Defendant.

6. For the aforesaid reasons, this revision petition succeeds.

7. In the result, the judgment and decree of the Appellate Court is set aside, thereby restoring the decree granted by the Trial Court. No costs.