

(2008) 12 P&H CK 0182

High Court Of Punjab And Haryana At Chandigarh

Case No: Criminal Appeal No. 2187-SB of 2008

Mahender

APPELLANT

Vs

The State of Haryana

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision: Dec. 5, 2008

Acts Referred:

- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS) - Section 15

Citation: (2008) 32 CriminalCC 510

Hon'ble Judges: Sham Sunder, J

Bench: Single Bench

Advocate: Manoj Kaushik, for the Appellant; Vikas Chaudhary, AAG, Haryana, for the Respondent

Final Decision: Allowed

Judgement

Sham Sunder, J.

This appeal is directed against the judgment of conviction, and the order of sentence dated 06.11.2008, rendered by the Special Judge, Rewari, vide which he convicted the accused/appellant, for the offence, punishable u/s 15 of the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (hereinafter called as "the Act" only) and sentenced him, to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of three years, and to pay a fine of Rs.5000/-, and in default of payment of the same, to undergo rigorous imprisonment for another period of three months, for having been found in possession of 14 kgs. poppy-husk, (which falls within the ambit of non-commercial quantity), without any permit or licence.

2. The facts, in brief, are that on 01.11.2006, Jaipal Singh, ASI, Incharge of CIA, GRP, Rewari, alongwith other police officials, was present at platform No.7 of Railway Station, Rewari, in connection with train checking. In the meanwhile, on seeing the police party, the accused, who was carrying a plastic bag, on his right shoulder, tried to go towards platform No.8, but was apprehended, on suspicion. He kept the

plastic bag, on the ground. On search of the bag, in accordance with the provisions of law, it was found containing 7 packets. In each packet, there was 2 Kgs. poppy-husk. Two samples of 100 grams each, from each of the packets, were taken out, and the remaining poppy-husk, was kept in the same packets. The samples, and the packets, containing the remaining poppy-husk, were converted into parcels, duly sealed, and taken into possession, vide a separate recovery memo. Ruqa was sent to the Police Station, on the basis whereof, formal FIR was registered. Rough site plan of the place of recovery, was prepared. The accused was arrested. After the completion of investigation, the accused was challaned.

3. On appearance, in the Court, the copies of documents, relied upon by the prosecution, were supplied to the accused. Charge u/s 15 of the Act, was framed against him, to which he pleaded not guilty, and claimed judicial trial.

4. The prosecution, in support of its case, examined Vikram Singh, ASI PW1, Abhay Singh, MHC PW2, Dharampal, EHC PW3, Ram Niwas PW4, Krishan Kumar, SI PW5, and Jaipal Singh, ASI PW6. Thereafter, the Public Prosecutor for the State, closed the prosecution evidence.

5. The statement of the accused, u/s 313 Cr.P.C., was recorded, and he was put all the incriminating circumstances, appearing against him, in the prosecution evidence. He pleaded false implication. He, however, did not lead any evidence, in his defence.

6. After hearing the Public Prosecutor for the State, the Counsel for the accused, and, on going through the evidence, on record, the trial Court, convicted and sentenced the accused/appellant, as stated hereinbefore.

7. Feeling aggrieved, against the judgment of conviction, and the order of sentence, rendered by the trial Court, the instant appeal, was filed by the appellant.

8. I have heard the learned Counsel for the parties, and have gone through the evidence and record, of the case, carefully.

9. The Counsel for the appellant, did not challenge the conviction, recorded by the trial Court. Even otherwise, he could not successfully challenge the same, for the reasons, that the trial Court, after carefully going through the evidence of the aforesaid witnesses, found the same to be cogent, convincing, reliable, and trustworthy. The trial Court also rightly came to the conclusion, on the basis of the evidence of the formal witnesses, that the link evidence was complete. The trial Court was, thus, right in coming to the conclusion, on the basis of the reliable evidence of the aforesaid witnesses, that the accused committed the offence, punishable u/s 15 of the Act. This Court, on thorough scrutiny of the evidence of the prosecution witnesses, also comes to the conclusion, that the same is reliable. The trial Court, thus, rightly convicted the accused. There is no reason, to interfere with the findings of the trial Court, in this regard.

10. The Counsel for the appellant, however, submitted that the recovery effected from the appellant, was minor, and the sentence awarded to him, by the trial Court, is harsh. He further submitted that the sentence awarded to the accused be reduced, as he has been facing the criminal proceedings, since 01.11.2006, the date when he was apprehended, in this case. The submission of the Counsel for the appellant, in this regard, appears to be correct. Since, the appellant has been facing the criminal proceedings, since 01.11.2006, it is a fit case, warranting the reduction of sentence. The submission of the Counsel for the appellant, in this regard, is accepted.

11. In view of the above discussion, the judgment of conviction, being based on the correct appreciation of evidence, and law on the point, deserves to be upheld. The order awarding the substantive sentence, deserves to be modified suitably, by reducing the substantive sentence.

12. For the reasons recorded above, the appeal is partly accepted. The judgment of conviction is maintained. The order of substantive sentence is modified, in the manner, that the appellant shall undergo RI for 8 months, instead of RI for 3 years, awarded to him, by the trial Court, whereas, the order of imposition of sentence of fine, and the sentence imposed in default of payment of fine, shall remain intact. The Chief Judicial Magistrate, Rewari, shall comply with the judgment forthwith, in accordance with the provisions of law, keeping in view the applicability of the provisions of Section 428 Cr.P.C., and submit the compliance report, within a period of one month, from the date of receipt of the certified copy of the same.