

Surmail Singh Vs State of Punjab and Others

None

Court: High Court Of Punjab And Haryana At Chandigarh

Date of Decision: Aug. 26, 2010

Acts Referred:

Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (CrPC) " Section 41, 482#Penal Code, 1860 (IPC) " Section 148, 149, 323, 325, 506

Hon'ble Judges: Sabina, J

Bench: Single Bench

Final Decision: Dismissed

Judgement

Sabina, J.

By way of this petition filed u/s 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, petitioner has primarily sought directions to respondent

No. 3 to arrest the accused mentioned in Annexure P-1 in case FIR No. 29 dated 13.3.2010 under Sections 323/325/506/148/149 of the Indian

Penal Code registered at Police Station Sultanwind.

2. Heard.

3. It has been held by the Apex Court in M.C. Abraham and Anr. v. State of Maharashtra and Ors. 2003 (1) RCR (Criminal) 452 as under:

14. Tested in the light of the principles aforesaid, the impugned orders dated 10th January, 2002 and 11th January, 2002 must be held to be orders

passed by over-stepping the parameters of judicial interference in such matters. In the first place, arrest of an accused is a part of the investigation

and is within the discretion of the investigating officer. Section 41 of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides for arrest by a police officer without

an order from a Magistrate and without a warrant. The Section gives discretion to the police officer who may, without an order from a Magistrate

and even without a warrant, arrest any person in the situations enumerated in that section. It is open to him, in the course of investigation, to arrest

any person who has been concerned with any cognizable offence or against whom reasonable complaint has been made or credible information

has been received, or a reasonable suspicion exists of his having been so concerned. Obviously, he is not expected to act in a mechanical manner

and in all cases to arrest the accused as soon as the report is lodged. In appropriate cases, after some investigation, the investigating officer may

make up his mind as to whether it is necessary to arrest the accused person. At that stage the Court has no role to play. Since the power is

discretionary, a police officer is not always bound to arrest an accused even if the allegation against him is of having committed a cognizable

offence. Since an arrest is in the nature of an encroachment on the liberty of the subject and does effect the reputation and status of the citizens, the

power has to be cautiously exercised. It depends inter alia upon the nature of the offence alleged and the type of persons who are accused of

having committed the cognizable offence. Obviously, the power has to be exercised with caution and circumspection.

15. In the instant case the appellants had not been arrested. It appears that the result of the investigation showed that no amount had been

defalcated. We are here not concerned with the correctness of the conclusion that the investigating officer may have reached. What is, however,

significant is that the investigating officer did not consider it necessary, having regard to all the facts and circumstances of the case, to arrest the

accused. In such a case there was no justification for the High Court to direct the State to arrest the appellants against whom the first information

report was lodged, as it amounted to unjustified interference in the investigation of the case. The mere fact that the bail applications of some of the

appellants had been rejected is no ground for directing their immediate arrest. In the very nature of things, a person may move the Court on mere

apprehension that he may be arrested. The Court may or may not grant anticipatory bail depending upon the facts and circumstances of the case

and the material placed before the Court. There may, however, be cases where the application for grant of anticipatory bail may be rejected and

ultimately, after investigation, the said person may not be put up for trial as no material is disclosed against him in the course of investigation. The

High Court proceeded on the assumption that since petitions for anticipatory bail had been rejected, there was no option open for the State but to

arrest those persons. This assumption, to our mind, is erroneous. A person whose petition for grant of anticipatory bail has been rejected may or

may not be arrested by the investigating officer depending upon the facts and circumstances of the case, nature of the offence, the background of

the accused, the facts disclosed in the course of investigation and other relevant considerations.

4. Since the petitioner is seeking a direction for arrest of the accused mentioned in Annexure P-1, no ground for interference is made out in view of

decision of Apex Court in M.C. Abraham's case (Supra).

5. Accordingly, this petition is dismissed.