

Sushil Chandra Guha and Another Vs Gouri Sundari Devi

Court: Calcutta High Court

Date of Decision: July 3, 1925

Acts Referred: Civil Procedure Code, 1908 (CPC) â€” Section 146

Citation: 92 Ind. Cas. 946

Hon'ble Judges: Cuming, J; Chakravarti, J

Bench: Division Bench

Judgement

Cuming, J.

This is an appeal against an order of the learned Subordinate Judge of Assansole rejecting an application under Order IX, Rule

13 to set aside two decrees which had been passed ex parte. The ground for refusing the application is that ""it was not maintainable. The facts

appear to be these. A certain suit was instituted on the 13th February 1922 for recovery of certain royalty which had been made a charge on the

property. A preliminary decree was passed on the 31st October 1924 and the final decree was passed on the 17th November 1924. Both these

decrees were passed ex parte. The present applicant is a puisne mortgagee under a mortgage deed executed in June 1921 and is now in

possession. Admittedly he was not a party to the suit.

2. It seems to me that the application was rightly rejected. Order IX, Rule 13 provides that ""In any case in which a decree is passed ex parte

against a defendant, he may apply to the Court by which the decree was passed for an order to set it aside; and if he satisfies the Court that the

summons was not duly served or that he was prevented by any sufficient cause from appearing when the suit was called on for hearing, the Court

shall make an order setting aside the decree as against him. Now, admittedly the applicant was not a defendant in the suit and he does not come

within the purview of Order IX, Rule 13. The learned Advocate who appears for him contends that this case comes within Section 146 of the

Code which provides as follows: ""Save as otherwise provided by this Code or by any law for the time being in force, where any proceeding may

be taken or application made by or against any person, then the proceeding may be taken or the application may be made by or against any

person claiming under him." I do not think that this case comes within the terms of the section.

3. Section 146 would not, I think, enable a pusine mortgagee who is not a party to the suit to maintain an application under Order IX, Rule 13. Let

us suppose for the sake of argument he was allowed to make the application and the ex parte decree was set aside. He would surely not be a

party to that suit and the defendant could, once more allow the suit to be decreed ex parte.

4. The order of the learned Subordinate Judge is right and the appeal must be dismissed with costs. I assess the hearing fee at 3 gold mohrs.

Chakravarti, J.

5. I agree. The learned Advocate for the appellant relied upon the case of Sitaramaswami v. Dulla Lakshmi Narasamma 48 Ind. Cas. 840 : 41 M.

510 : 8 L.W 21 in support of his contention that a person who was not a party to a suit was held entitled to come u/s 146, C.P.C, and allowed to

file an appeal against a final decree. It appears to me that that case is clearly distinguishable for two reasons; first, because the interest of the

appellant in that case accrued after the institution of the suit; and the second ground on which I think the present case is distinguishable is that it was

not an application under Order IX, Rule 13 but an appeal against a final decree. This case, therefore, is no authority for the proposition which, the

learned Advocate wanted to establish in the present case. I think, therefore, this appeal is not maintainable. I agree, there-fore with my learned

brother that this appeal should be dismissed with costs.