

# Teji And 3 Others vs State Of U.P. And Another on 4 February, 2025

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

?Neutral Citation No. - 2025:AHC:15120

Court No. - 74

Case :- APPLICATION U/S 482 No. - 2165 of 2024

Applicant :- Teji And 3 Others

Opposite Party :- State of U.P. and Another

Counsel for Applicant :- Arvind Kumar Sahu

Counsel for Opposite Party :- A.G.A.,G.A.,Rahul Saxena

Hon'ble Vikas Budhwar,J.

1. Heard Sri Arvind Kumar Sahu, learned counsel for the applicants who are four in number, Sri Muniraj Mehrotra learned A.G.A. for the State and Sri Rahul Saxena, learned counsel for the opposite party no.2.
2. A counter affidavit has been filed on behalf of the State-respondents which is available on record.
3. A statement has been made by the learned counsel for the applicants as well as the learned counsel for the opposite party no.2 that they do not propose to file any further affidavits in this regard. With the consent of the parties, the application be decided at the fresh stage.
4. Learned counsel for the applicants has submitted that the impugned proceedings emanating from the complaint case being 44 of 2021 (Smt. Chanda vs. Teji and others) pending in the court of Special Judge (S.C./S.T. Act), Bareilly under Sections 452, 323, 504, 506, 379 I.P.C. and 3(1) Da,

Dha, 3(2) (va) S.C./S.T. Act, P.S. Aonla, District Bareilly is nothing but the malicious prosecution which is interwoven with false and concocted allegations which have no basis at all.

5. Elaborating the said submission it is submitted that the present dispute is nothing but a civil dispute as further pursuant to the proceedings sought to be lodged by the respective parties the matter had travelled to Revenue Authorities from where certain orders were passed. He further submits that the applicants have not committed any offence in this regard.

6. Learned AGA along with Sri Rahul Saxena, have sought to argue that a cognizable offence is made out from the narration of the summoning order as well as from the allegations of the complaint case. It is thus submitted that not only caste based abuses were being sought to be hurled but also offences were made out.

7. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and gone through the records.

8. In the opinion of Court the entire arguments were sought to be canvassed by the counsel for the applicants centers around factual issues which cannot be gone into in the present stage particularly when the trial is not yet commenced. Apart from the same, this Court is not required to make a roving and fishing inquiry going into the merits of the matter and what is to be seen is the fact as to whether the FIR/complaint discloses cognizable offence in view of the law laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court and in the case of M/S Neeharika, Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. vs. State Of Maharashtra and others reported in AIR 2021 SC 192 and the paragraph no. 23 culled out the following propositions of law which is enumerated hereinunder:-

"i) Police has the statutory right and duty under the relevant provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure contained in Chapter XIV of the Code to investigate into a cognizable offence;

ii) Courts would not thwart any investigation into the cognizable offences;

iii) It is only in cases where no cognizable offence or offence of any kind is disclosed in the first information report that the Court will not permit an investigation to go on;

iv) The power of quashing should be exercised sparingly with circumspection, as it has been observed, in the "rarest of rare cases (not to be confused with the formation in the context of death penalty).

v) While examining an FIR/complaint, quashing of which is sought, the court cannot embark upon an enquiry as to the reliability or genuineness or otherwise of the allegations made in the FIR/complaint;

vi) Criminal proceedings ought not to be scuttled at the initial stage;

vii) Quashing of a complaint/FIR should be an exception rather than an ordinary rule;

viii) Ordinarily, the courts are barred from usurping the jurisdiction of the police, since the two organs of the State operate in two specific spheres of activities and one ought not to tread over the other sphere;

ix) The functions of the judiciary and the police are complementary, not overlapping;

x) Save in exceptional cases where non-interference would result in miscarriage of justice, the Court and the judicial process should not interfere at the stage of investigation of offences;

xi) Extraordinary and inherent powers of the Court do not confer an arbitrary jurisdiction on the Court to act according to its whims or caprice;

xii) The first information report is not an encyclopaedia which must disclose all facts and details relating to the offence reported. Therefore, when the investigation by the police is in progress, the court should not go into the merits of the allegations in the FIR. Police must be permitted to complete the investigation. It would be premature to pronounce the conclusion based on hazy facts that the complaint/FIR does not deserve to be investigated or that it amounts to abuse of process of law. After investigation, if the investigating officer finds that there is no substance in the application made by the complainant, the investigating officer may file an appropriate report/summary before the learned Magistrate which may be considered by the learned Magistrate in accordance with the known procedure;

xiii) The power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. is very wide, but conferment of wide power requires the court to be more cautious. It casts an onerous and more diligent duty on the court;

xiv) However, at the same time, the court, if it thinks fit, regard being had to the parameters of quashing and the self-restraint imposed by law, more particularly the parameters laid down by this Court in the cases of R.P. Kapur (supra) and Bhajan Lal (supra), has the jurisdiction to quash the FIR/complaint;

xv) When a prayer for quashing the FIR is made by the alleged accused and the court when it exercises the power under Section 482 Cr.P.C., only has to consider whether the allegations in the FIR disclose commission of a cognizable offence or not. The court is not required to consider on merits whether or not the merits of the allegations make out a cognizable offence and the court has to permit the investigating agency/police to investigate the allegations in the FIR;

xvi) The aforesaid parameters would be applicable and/or the aforesaid aspects are required to be considered by the High Court while passing an interim order in a quashing petition in exercise of powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. and/or under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. However, an interim order of stay of investigation during the pendency of the quashing petition can be passed with circumspection. Such an interim order should not require to be passed routinely, casually and/or mechanically. Normally, when the investigation is in progress and the facts are hazy and the entire evidence/material is not before the High Court, the High Court should restrain itself from passing the interim order of not to arrest or "no coercive steps to be adopted" and the accused should be relegated to apply for anticipatory bail under Section 438 Cr.P.C. before the competent court. The High Court shall not and as such is not justified in passing the order of not to arrest and/or "no coercive steps" either during the investigation or till the investigation is completed and/or till the final report/chargesheet is filed under Section 173 Cr.P.C., while dismissing/disposing of the quashing petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. and/or under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.

xvii) Even in a case where the High Court is prima facie of the opinion that an exceptional case is made out for grant of interim stay of further investigation, after considering the broad parameters while exercising the powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. and/or under Article 226 of the Constitution of India referred to hereinabove, the High Court has to give brief reasons why such an interim order is warranted and/or is required to be passed so that it can demonstrate the application of mind by the Court and the higher forum can consider what was weighed with the High Court while passing such an interim order.

xviii) Whenever an interim order is passed by the High Court of "no coercive steps to be adopted" within the aforesaid parameters, the High Court must clarify what does it mean by "no coercive steps to be adopted" as the term "no coercive steps to be adopted" can be said to be too vague and/or broad which can be misunderstood and/or misapplied."

9. On a pointed query, being made to learned counsel for the applicants, as to whether there was any jurisdictional error committed by the court below, the learned counsel for the applicants could not point out any jurisdictional error committed by the court below.

10. Resultantly, in absence of any jurisdictional infirmity or illegality pointed out by the learned counsel for the applicants, no good ground is made to quash the charge sheet as well as the summoning order, as even otherwise, this Court finds that this is not a fit case wherein inherit jurisdiction power under section 482 Cr.P.C. 1973, be invoked.

11. In view of above, the present application under section 482 Cr.P.C. stands consigned to record.

12. It is always open for the applicants to take appropriate stage for enlargement on bail. This Court has no reasons to disbelieve that once the same is being proceeded with the same shall be given a logical end.

Order Date :- 4.2.2025 piyush