

Reserved on 29.07.2022

Delivered on 30.09.2022

Court No.67

Case :- APPLICATION U/S 482 No. - 23160 of 2018

Applicant :- Swami Chinmayanand Saraswati

Opposite Party :- State Of U.P. And Anr

Counsel for Applicant :- Rajrshi Gupta, Dileep Kumar, Manish Singh, Raj Kumar Singh Chauhan

Counsel for Opposite Party :- G.A., Anurag Kumar Pandey, Rafat Raza Khan, Sundeep Shukla, Veerendra Kumar Shukla

Hon'ble Rahul Chaturvedi, J.

[1] Heard Sri Dileep Kumar, Senior learned Advocate assisted by Sri Rajshri Gupta, Sri R.K.S Chauhan and Sri Manish Singh, learned counsels for the applicant, Sri Anurag Pandey, learned counsel for opposite party no. 2, Sri A.K. Sand, learned AGA-I assisted by Sri Ajay Kumar Sharma, learned A.G.A for the State and Sri Sandeep Shukla, Advocate assisted by Sri Rafat Raza Khan Advocate for the "proposed intervener" Sri B.P. Gautam.

[2] Pleadings have been exchanged between the parties, and Counter affidavits have been filed by opposite party no.2 Sadhvi Chidarpita Gautam@Ms Komal Gupta and Mr. Patanjali Mishra, learned A.G.A. have filed their respective counter affidavits on behalf of the State which is already on record. Interestingly, an 'Intervening application' under Chapter

XXII Rule 5 of the High Court Rules on behalf of Sri B.P. Gautam, filed by Sri Sandeep Shukla and Sri Rafat Raza Khan Advocate is also on record with the prayer to permit the applicant (Mr. B.P. Gautam, in the capacity of alleged husband of opposite party no.2) be also heard. At the outset, Sri Sandeep Shukla, Advocate was given fullest of the opportunity and audience by the court to establish his case and claim proposed respondent.

[3] This petition, invoking extra-ordinary power of the Court under section 482 Cr.P.C. assailing the legality and validity of the order dated 24.05.2018 passed by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Shahjahanpur in Case No. 1423 of 2011 (State v. Chinmayanand Saraswati), under Sections 376 and 506 IPC, P.S. Kotwali, Shahjahanpur is for judicial scrutiny, whereby the learned Magistrate has declined to accord permission to the application given by the Prosecuting Officer under section 321 Cr.P.C. i.e. withdrawal of prosecution against the applicant, named above. Thus, this is the focal issue of the entire controversy. In addition to this, since Sri B.P. Gautam, alleged husband of opposite party no. 2, has moved an "Intervening Application" to be impleaded and heard in the matter and therefore at the threshold stage, the disposal of aforesaid Intervening application is imperative as an ancillary issue to the primary one i.e. validity of the order dated 24.05.2018, passed by learned Chief Judicial Magistrate, Shahjahanpur.

[4] So far as Intervening application on behalf of Mr. B.P. Gautam S/o Naresh Pal Singh, alleged husband of Ms. Chidarpita Gautam @Komal Gupta is concerned, it is relevant that opposite party no.2, the real victim, has already engaged her counsel, Sri Anurag Kumar Pandey,

who has filed a detailed counter affidavit on her behalf and she is actively contesting the case on her behalf and at no point of time, she has ever authorized Mr. B.P. Gautam to contest the case on her behalf.

Disposal of the Intervening Application

[5] The Court has perused the Intervening Application, sworn by Sri B.P. Gautam, who sought permission of the Court to intervene in the present application filed under section 482 Cr.P.C., in addition to opposite party no. 2.

[6] The Court wonders that when the victim herself is being duly represented in her count, then what is the *locus standi* of Mr. B.P. Gautam to intervene into the present issue. In this regard, the Court had an occasion to look into the definition of "**victim**" as provided under section 2(wa) of Cr.P.C. which reads thus:

"victim" means a person who has suffered any loss or injury caused by reason of the act or commission for which the accused person has been charged and the expression "victim" includes his or her guardian or legal heir.

[7] In this regard, learned A.G.A submits that though in the year 2011, Mr. B.P. Gautam, a local journalist of Shahjahanpur/Budaun, married man, without divorcing his earlier wife, got married with Ms. Chidarpita Gautam@Komal Gupta but it seems that this relationship was full of turmoil, where Ms. Chidarpita Gautam@Komal Gupta initiated proceedings under section 12 of Domestic Violence Act, a Divorce Petition under section 13 (1) of the Hindu Marriage Act, a proceeding under section 125 Cr.P.C. and all the proceedings are pending before the respective competent courts. Thus, it is apparent that they are rivals in different

proceedings and thus, no stretch would fall within the ambit of either 'guardian or legal heir'. Mr. B.P. Gautam, without her consent or any authority, is trying to represent opposite party no. 2 by filing "Intervening Application". When opposite party no.2, the real victim, is already represented by her counsel, then Sri B.P. Gautam, alleged husband, would occupies the back seat, specially under the present scenario of the case, whereby he is a contesting party/rival in number of proceedings against her, pending in different courts of law, including Divorce proceedings. This 'Intervening Application' is nothing but an attempt to gain popularity through opposite party no.2.

[8] Learned A.G.A has relied upon a recent judgement of Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of **Jagjeet Singh and others v Ashish Mishra @Monu in Criminal Appeal No. 632 of 2022 decided on 18.04.2022.** Learned A.G.A. has also relied upon the Full Bench Judgment of this Court in the case of **Mast Ram Tiwari Vs. State of U.P. reported in (2018) 2 ADJ 518**, some extracts of para no.22 of which is quoted hereinbelow :-

"22..... Though, we are not called upon, in the present case, to consider the scope of the word 'victim', what appears to us from its plain reading, is that it is classified in two categories - (i) a person who has suffered any loss or injury caused by the reason of the act or omission attributed to the accused; and (ii) the guardian or legal heirs of such 'victim'. The expression 'guardian' or 'legal heir' used in the definition clause under Section 2 (wa), in our opinion, deserves to be construed in the broad and general sense, so as to include all those on whom the estate of the deceased dwells....."

Thus, the guardian or legal heir of such victim would come into play only when the victim is incompetent or incapable to defend his/herself but where the victim herself is in a position to engage her counsel and contesting the case with her all might, then, in that event, her guardian or legal heir of the victim, would have no

role to play in the presence of such victim. The opposite party no.2 is a major girl, physically and financially sound, then she has got no reason to engage or ask Mr. B.P. Gautam to contest her case on her behalf. Therefore, **the Intervening Application**, filed on behalf of Mr. B.P. Gautam is, hereby, **rejected**.

Adjudication on focal issue i.e. rejection of application under section 321 Cr.P.C.

[9] Revisting to the principal issue, applicability of Section 321 Cr.P.C., which deals about withdrawal from the prosecution in the present case. In this regard, lets have certain old quotation which gives beacon light to adjudicate instant controversy :-

“Justice, though due to accused is due to the accuser also. The concept of fairness must not be strained until it is narrowed it is a filament. We are to keep the balance true.”

This Court could not resist the thundering sanskrit sholka quoted hereinbelow which remained haunting throughout the adjudication of the case and till the dictation of the judgment, :-

नीरक्षीरविवेके हंस आलस्यं त्वं एव तनुषे चेता।
विश्वस्मिन् अध्यना अस्यः कुलव्रतम् पालयिष्यति कः ॥

(हिंदी अर्थ – ऐ हंस यदि तुम दूध और पनी में फर्क करना छेड़ दोगे तो तुम्हारे कुलव्रत का पालन इस विश्व में कैन करेगा। यदि बुद्धिमान व्यक्ति ही इस संसार में अना कर्त्त्य त्याग देंगे तो निष्पक्ष व्यवहार कैन करेगा?)

[10] The judgment of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Benjamin N. Cordozo in ***Snyder v. Massachusetts, 291 U.S. 97 (1934)***, it was categorically observed that :-

“Every civilized State has obligation to protect its citizen in all spheres of life. This is one of the predominant duties of the State in the modern era. The duty of the State in civil sphere case to ensure and protect the people's right and in the criminal sphere is to protect people from the culprit/s and to maintain law and order in the society. Therefore, the administration of justice

is ferment pillar of the society This is to fuel the legal justice, which ensures uniformity and certainty in the administration.”

[11] Hon'ble Mr Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer expressed the stake of victim of a crime in Re: ***Rattan Singh v. State of Punjab [1974 (4) SCC 701]*** as under:

“...It is a weakness of our jurisprudence that the victims of the crime, and the distress of the dependents of the victim, do not attract the attention of the law. Indeed, victim reparation is still the vanishing point of our criminal law. This is a deficiency in the system which must be rectified by the Legislature...”

[12] In criminology, offence committed by a person, who is never against particular individual but against the whole society (State), therefore, in criminal matters, the State itself is a party. The criminal prosecution of a criminal case is conducted by a Public Prosecutor. Section 321 of the Cr.P.C. enables the Public Prosecutor or the Assistant Public Prosecutor to withdraw from a prosecution of any person either generally or in respect of anyone for more of the offences for which he is tried. For this issue, the consent of the Court is necessary and imperative.

[13] Taking the guidance and recourse from the aforesaid observations, it is mandatory to spell out brief skeleton facts of the case, which has given rise to the present controversy ;

[14] Visiting to the present disputation upraised on behalf of Swami Chinmayanand Sarawati, an ex-Minister for State of Home in the Central Government during 1999-2004, approached this Court for invocation of extra-ordinary power of this Court under section 482 Cr.P.C. with the prayer to allow the application and to secure ends of justice as well as quash the order dated 24.05.2018 (annexure no. XXIV of the affidavit), passed by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Shahjahanpur rejecting the

application under section 321 Cr.P.C. filed by the Public Prosecutor/Prosecuting Officer to withdraw the prosecution of Criminal Case No.4179 of 2012 (State v. Swami Chinmayanand Saraswati) arising out of Case Crime No.1423 of 2011, P.S. Kotwali, District Shahjahanpur, under section 376 and 506 IPC and to accord consent for withdrawal of the case. Secondly, in addition to the above, charge sheet no. 147 of 2012 dated 23.10.2012 and order of taking cognizance passed in the said charge sheet dated 29.10.2012 may also be quashed and entire proceedings of Criminal Case No.4179 of 2012 (State v. Swami Chinmayanand Saraswati) based on the impugned charge sheet no.147 of 2012 may also be quashed as the same is gross abuse of process of Court and to pass any further order in favour of the applicant, which the Court may deem fit and proper.

[15] So far as the second part of the prayer for quashing of the charge sheet and cognizance order dated 29.10.2012 is concerned, learned counsel for the applicant drew attention of this Court that on the earlier occasion, the applicant approached to the Court by filing an application under section 482 Cr.P.C., No.43082 of 2012 wherein on 14.12.2012, a co-ordinate Bench of this Court, while issuing notice to opposite party no.2 had stayed further proceedings of Case No.2179 of 2012 (State v. Swami Chinmayanand Saraswati). However, on 02.02.2018 an application was moved by the present applicant to withdraw the aforesaid Criminal Miscellaneous Application No.43082 of 2012 which was allowed on 16.02.2018 without granting any liberty to file a fresh petition with regard to same issue.

[16] Subsequently, since the applicant himself withdrew the aforesaid petition with the same prayer, thus, the second part of the prayer challenging the charge sheet and the summoning order is now incompetent and, accordingly, **rejected**.

[17] Now, entertaining the first part of the prayer whereby the concerned Chief Judicial Magistrate on 24.05.2018 has rejected the application moved by Public Prosecutor for withdrawing the prosecution against the applicant in exercise of power under section 321 Cr.P.C.

[18] To appreciate the controversy involved, it is mandatory to give a bird's eye view to the entire facts of the case, especially after the perusal of paragraphs 5 to 13 of the petition which speaks out the warped agenda of the case itself. Learned counsel for the applicant has tried to create a hype, an aura around the applicant by submitting, that the applicant is a man of high spiritual, ethical moral political values and saint of high pedestal. In addition to this, he was a political giant at one point of time and a vibrant social worker. Impressed by the spiritual and socio-political qualities of the applicant, the complainant, opposite party no.2 met with him at his official accommodation in the year 2001 at New Delhi and delighted to find him a spiritually giant, a dedicated social worker and a vibrant political personality. She tried to develop affinity with him when she was in her teens. Thereafter, she expressed her willingness and desire to turn as a *Sanyasini* and requested him to give her *Deeksha* (consecration). During the period of 2002-2004, the applicant had consecrated (Deeksha) and given her a new name "**Sadhvi Chidarpita**" and thus, opposite party no.2 became his disciple, started treating him as her Guru. In the year

2005, she observed certain radical changes in the attitude of her Guru, who was trying to shift his main seat *Mumuksha Ashram* at Shahjahanpur to the aforesaid reincarnated Sadhvi. All these developments in the life of opposite party no. 2 she has narrated in her facebook page (annexure 5 to the petition). In her same posts, she admits that she has actively participated in the management activities of the aforesaid Ashram, Sukhdevanand P.G. College and other educational institutions run by Mumuksha Ashram and she became part and parcel of the management.

[19] It has been argued by Sri Dileep Kumar, learned Senior Advocate appearing for the applicant, that opposite party no. 2 remained in the company of the applicant at Mumuksha Ashram, Shahjahanpur where the applicant asked her to complete her graduation, post-graduation and to complete her L.L.B course. She completed her aforesaid education, while residing in the Ashram and became integral part of his profession and private life of applicant-Swami Chinmayanand Saraswati. It has been pointed out by the learned counsel for the applicant that opposite party no.2 remained in the company of the applicant at Mumuksha Ashram, Shahjahanpur. Further, she was made member of Shanker Mumuksha Vidyapeeth.

[20] It seems that while she was in the company of the applicant she was craving high aspirations and hankering hopes for her future and, therefore, tried to impress upon the applicant to exploit his political affiliations to let her contest Assembly Election of 2012. The applicant seems to dump her aforesaid pipe-dreams and from this stage the bickering between them ignited. On 01.10.2011, opposite party no. 2

deserted Mumuksha Ashram after resigning from all the given posts, educational institutions and on July 2011 got married with one Mr. B.P. Gautam, a free-lance journalist, who started living with his second wife Ms. Komal Gupta.

[21] From the record, it is apparent that on 14.11.2011 opposite party no.2 wrote a letter to the then Chief Minister, U.P. with the allegations of wrongful confinement, illegal detention, sexual assault and abortion and requested him to get her FIR lodged in the matter against the applicant. Consequently, on 30.11.2011, case crime no.1423 of 2011 was registered against the sole named accused person, under sections 342, 376, 506, 307, 323, 312 IPC wherein the FIR running between three hand written pages, whereby she narrated her nightmare faced by her with the hands of the applicant during 2001-2011 wherein she accused the applicant for establishing physical relationship with her perforce, administering some intoxicants in her food and thereafter brutally ravishing her. Not only this, her obscene audio-visual videos and porn photographs were taken and her further exploitation begun. She further states that during this process, she was impregnated twice and for the first time at Bareilly and for the second time at Lucknow, she was got aborted. Not only this, when she was pregnant, assaulted mercilessly by the applicant's goons.

[22] After lodging of the FIR, the police got her medically examined, her statements under sections 161 and 164 Cr.P.C. was got recorded. The concerned doctors in medical report were unable to give any opinion about rape or about the said abortion. They also did not find any injury around the neck or other parts of the body of opposite party. 2. Since, all the

offence were serious in nature and cognizable, therefore, the applicant approached this Court by filing Criminal Miscellaneous Writ Petition No. 2493 of 2011 whereupon a co-ordinate Bench of this Court on 22.11.2012 have rescued the applicant from the wrath of the police. The writ petition was eventually disposed of by the Division Bench of this Court vide order dated 16.07.2022 wherein the arrest of the petitioner was stayed upto the filing of the report under section 173(2) Cr.P.C.

[23] After concluding the evidences, the Investigating officer of the case, dropped all the sections of the Indian Penal Code except sections 376 and 506 IPC and the learned Magistrate concerned had taken cognizance of the referred offence against the applicant on 02.12.2011.

[24] The Court had the occasion to peruse the statements of the victim recorded sections 161 Cr.P.C.(annexure no. 13 of the petition) in which the question-answer was put by the Investigation Officer wherein the victim has reiterated the version of the FIR by giving a detailed reply that the applicant initially raised her aspirations sky high and impressed her psyche so that she may come under his aura and to an extent the applicant has succeeded in winning over her confidence. On the question as to whether she has married the applicant or not, she replied that though she has not married because in '*Saraswasti Sampraday*', marriage is prohibited but still, she considered the applicant as husband. In 164 Cr.P.C. statement, she has almost reiterated the same version but has admitted that in July 2011, she got married with one B.P. Gautam at Budaun and left Mumuksha Ashram on 28th August, 2011.

[25] At this juncture, it is borned out from the record of the case that

on the earlier occasion, the applicant by means of Application U/S 482 No. 43082 of 2012, had challenged the charge sheet as well the summoning order whereupon co-ordinate Bench of this Court on 14.12.2012 stayed the proceedings of the case and issued notice to opposite party no.2. This interim order have lasted upto 2018 whereby on 02.02.2018 an application was moved on behalf of the applicant to withdraw the aforesaid 482 application and vacate the interim order dated 14.12.2012 for the reasons best known to the applicant and accordingly the said application was entertained and acceded by yet another Bench of this Court, whereby the aforesaid 482 application was rejected as 'not pressed' and interim order was vacated and Office of the Court was ordered to communicate this order to the court concerned. It is interesting to point out here that as soon as the said 482 application was rejected as not pressed on 16.02.2018 an Under Secretary of Government of Uttar Pradesh wrote a letter to the District Magistrate, Shahjahanpur whereby directing the Public Prosecutor to withdraw the prosecution against the applicant. The said order by the Under Secretary of the Government of Uttar Pradesh dated 06.03.2018 is quoted herein below:

संख्या-48 डब्ल्यूसी/ सात-न्याय-5 2018-19/डब्ल्यूसी

प्रेषक,

अरुण कुमार राय,

अनु सचिव,

उत्तर प्रदेश शासन।

सेवा में,

जिला मजिस्ट्रेट,

शाहजहांपुर।

न्याय अनुभाग-5 (फौजदारी) / लखनऊ: दिनांक- 06.03.2018
विषय- मु०अ०स०- 1423/2011, धारा 376, 506 भा०दं०वि थाना कोतवाली जनपद शाहजहांपुर राज्य बनाम चिन्मयानन्द सरस्वती के अभियोग के वापसी के सम्बन्ध में।

महोदय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक आपके पत्र संख्या- 395/न्याय सहायक/2018 दिनांक 31.01.2018 के सन्दर्भ में मुझे यह कहने का निर्देश

हुआ है कि वाद सम्बन्धी उपलब्ध आख्या/ पत्रादि पर समुचित विचारोपरान्त शासन ने उक्त चिन्मयानन्द सरस्वती के अभियोग को वापस लिये जाने हेतु लोक अभियोग मां न्यायालय में प्रार्थना पत्र प्रस्तुत किये जाने की लिखित अनुमति ले लिया है

2. अतः श्री राज्यपाल महोदय उपर्युक्त वाद में चिन्मयानन्द सरस्वती के अभियोग को वापस लेने हेतु लोक अभियोजक द्वारा न्यायालय में प्रार्थना करने की अनुमति प्रदान करते हैं।

3. कृपया उपर्युक्त के अनुक्रम में दण्ड प्रक्रिया संहिता (सी०आर०पी०सी०) की धारा-321 में उल्लिखित प्राविधानों का अनुपालन कराते हुये अग्रतर कार्यवाही करने का कष्ट करें।

भवदीय,

ह०अप

(अरुण कुमार राय)

अनु सचिव।

ह०अप०

07.03.2018

[26] While annexing aforesaid letter of the Under Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, the District Magistrate, Shahjahanpur on 9th March 2018 wrote a letter to the Senior Public Prosecutor (Shahjahanpur) to get the prosecution withdrawn against the applicant. "Obeying and adhering" to the directions of the Senior Executive Bosses, the Senior Public Prosecutor, Shahjahanpur on 12.03.2018 gave an application in the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Shahjahanpur prepared an application under section 321 Cr.P.C. which reads thus:

न्यायालय मुख्य न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट, जनपद शाहजहांपुर

वाद सं०

राज्य बनाम स्वामी चिन्मयानन्द सरस्वती

अ०सं०- 1423/2011

धारा 376/506 भा०दं०वि०

थाना कोतवाली, शाहजहांपुर।

प्रार्थना पत्र अन्तर्गत धारा 321 दं०प्र०सं०

महोदय,

निवेदन है कि उ० प्र० शासन द्वारा अपने पत्र सं० 48 डब्लू०सी०/ सात-न्याय-5-2018-10 डब्लू०सी०/2017 दिनांक 06.03.18 के द्वारा सूचित किया गया है कि उपरोक्त वाद के सम्पूर्ण तथ्यों एवं उपलब्ध आख्या/ पत्रादि पर समुचित विचारोपरान्त शासन ने उक्त वाद में स्वामी चिन्मयानन्द सरस्वती के अभियोग को वापस लिये जाने हेतु लोक अभियोजक को माननीय न्यायालय में प्रार्थना पत्र प्रस्तुत किये जाने की लिखित अनुमति देने का निर्णय लिया है। महामहिम राज्यपाल महोदय द्वारा उपरोक्त वाद में स्वामी चिन्मयानन्द सरस्वती के अभियोग को वापस लेने हेतु प्रार्थी लोक अभियोजक को माननीय न्यायालय में प्रार्थना पत्र प्रस्तुत करने की अनुमति प्रदान की गयी है। शासन का उपरोक्त पत्र माननीय न्यायालय के अवलोकनार्थ इस प्रार्थना पत्र के साथ संलग्न करके दाखिल किया जा रहा है।

प्रार्थी द्वारा अपने स्वतंत्र मस्तिष्क का प्रयोग करते हुए पत्रावली का परिशीलन किया गया तथा उक्त वाद को जनहित एवं न्यायहित में वापस लिये जाने के शासन के उपरोक्त निर्णय से सहमत है।

अतः माननीय न्यायालय से वित्रम प्रार्थना है कि उपरोक्त वाद के अभियोजन को वापस लेने एव पत्रावली को तदनुसार निस्तारित किये जाने का आदेश पारित करने की कृपा करें। क्योंकि राज्य उपरोक्त वाद का अभियोजन नहीं करना चाहता है।

दिनांक: 12.03.2018

भवदीय
ह०अप०
(विनोद कुमार सिंह)
अभियोजन अधिकारी
शाहजहांपुर

[27] A plain reading of the application speaks volumes about a total non-application of mind by the Senior Prosecution Officer, Shahjahanpur wherein he submits that he has applied his “स्वतंत्र मस्तिष्क (**independent mind**)”, perused the record of the case and in the interest of public and of justice, he is in the agreement with the decision taken by the Government of U.P. to withdraw the prosecution against the applicant. This is simply a farce hoax and mirage to cover up the mandatory requirement of the law that the public prosecutor shall apply his judicial mind while filing this application under section 321 Cr.P.C. The law mandates that something more is required in the application as against the alleged “स्वतंत्र मस्तिष्क” (**independent mind**).

[28] This is the biggest misfortune, anomaly, ridiculousness and absurdity on the part of Senior Prosecution Officer, Shahjahanpur, dancing to the tune of the State Government, conveniently rushed to the court concerned within three days from receipt of the letter of the District Magistrate, Shahjahanpur and have submitted the above application on 12.03.2018 itself.

[29] When the aforesaid application filed by the Senior Prosecuting Officer, Shahjahanpur was pending in the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Shahjahanpur for its disposal, on 24th May 2021, opposite party

no.2 filed an application requesting the court to reject the aforesaid application of the Senior Prosecuting Officer under section 321 Cr.P.C. (annexure no. 33). She has opposed the said application and decision of the State Government truth and nail as she was real victim of the atrocities committed by the applicant upon her, but, state government for the obvious reasons, have decided to withdraw the prosecution against the applicant.

[30] Learned counsel for the applicant has drawn attention of the Court to annexure no. 25, a letter written by a former Judge of this Court Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kamleshwar Nath (since retired) to the District Judge, Shahjahanpur wherein he sought certain information relying upon the news item published in Times of India(Lucknow Edition dated 10.04.2018) whereby he requested to apprise him through e-mail regarding the queries sought by him as under :-

- (a) The case number of the Criminal Case and its date of the registration/institution between the particular parties
- (b) As to whether the High Court has stayed the arrest of the accused Chinmayanand and the stay order.
- (c) Whether the proceedings of the aforesaid criminal case has been stayed?

[31] After receipt of the aforesaid mail dated 16.04.2018, the said letter was forwarded to the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Shahjahanpur for his reply, who on 18.04.2018 had given pointwise reply to the queries made by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kamleshwar Nath (since retired) referring to a news item.

[32] Strenuous arguments advanced by Sri Dileep Kumar with the submission that this mail sent by the aforesaid Ex. Judge of the High Court created undue pressure upon the learned Chief Judicial Magistrate,

Shahjahanpur and over-influenced by it, the concerned Chief Judicial Magistrate decided the application of Senior Prosecuting Officer, Shahjahanpur dated 12.03.2018 rejecting the application under section 321 Cr.P.C.

[33] Pursuant to the parent order of this Court dated 14.12.2012 in the instant application filed under section 482 Cr.P.C., notices were issued to opposite party no. 2 and the learned A.G.A, who have filed their respective counter affidavits, which are on record.

[34] Sri Anurag Pandey, learned counsel for opposite party no.2 filed his *Vakalatnama* as well as counter affidavit dated 08.12.2020. The Court had the opportunity to look into the counter affidavit, sworn by Sadhvi Chidapita Gautam@Komal Gupta, who in paragraph 4 of the affidavit averred as under :

“That the deponent contested the proceedings and approached the higher authorities concerned including his excellency, the Government of U.P. The deponent came to know that his excellency the Hon’ble Governor called for the report from the District Magistrate Shahjahanpur/prosecutor and the matter has been finally dropped. Now, the deponent is fully satisfied with the decision of State Government for withdrawal of prosecution and the deponent/complainant is not interested in further perusing the matter of prosecutiion of the applicant and she has no objection in withdrawal of prosecution of the applicant without entering into the merit of the case.”

[35] From the above averments of opposite party no.2, it is emphatically clear that she has now in the agreement with the decision of the State Government and has further submitted that she is no more interested in prosecuting the applicant in the aforesaid criminal case.

Though, learned A.G.A has filed counter affidavit on behalf of the State. The said counter affidavit was sworn by Sri Shiv Prasad Dubey, who is the Circle Officer, Jalalabad, district Shahjahanpur. In his counter

affidavit wherein he spelled out skeleton facts of the case and has mentioned therein that after thorough investigation, the police has already submitted charge sheet under sections 376 and 506 IPC against the applicant and the court of competent jurisdiction has taken cognizance thereafter. The victim has supported prosecution case in her statements recorded under Sections 161 and 164 Cr.P.C. Not only this, she opposed the application under section 321 CrP.C. filed by the Senior Prosecuting Officer, Shahjahanpur by giving an application to the court concerned (annexed to the main petition, annexure 23-A, dated 24th May 2018).

[36] However, in paragraph 61 of the counter affidavit, there is denial of content of paragraph 76 whereby it has been mentioned that the Senior Prosecuting Officer, Shahjahanpur has submitted that the court concerned, after assessing material on record, has rejected the application filed by the Senior Prosecuting Officer, Shahjahanpur and has requested the court to reject the application filed under section 482 Cr.P.C. by Swami Chinmayanand Saraswati.

After exchange of the pleadings, there are following salient and distinguishing features of the case for the sake of brevity, which are as follows:

- (i) The applicant is the sole accused of the present criminal case, and opposite party no.2, who has levelled most abhorring allegations against the applicant, has virtually mercilessly crushed her chastity and ruined the relationship between Guru and Shishya (Teacher and disciple). The poor girl had been sexually exploited by the applicant as she has reiterated in her statements recorded under sections 161 and 164 Cr.P.C.
- (ii) The police after thorough investigation submitted a charge sheet

under sections 376 and 506 IPC against the applicant on 23.01.2012 and the concerned learned Magistrate has taken cognizance on 29.10.2012 for the aforesaid offence, dropping all other allied sections.

[37] The applicant filed first application under section 482 Cr.P.C No. 43082 of 2012 (Swami Chinmayanand Sarawati v. State of U.P.) and on 14.12.2012 a coordinate Bench of this Court, while issuing notice to the applicant and opposite party no. 2 has stayed further proceedings of the case No. 4179 of 2012 (State v. Chinmayanand Sarawati) and this interim order continued to operate till 16.02.2018, when the applicant himself had withdrawn the aforesaid 482 application without any leave or liberty to file afresh. This action speaks volumes about ulterior designs of the applicant.

[38] This sudden change in the situation i.e. withdrawal of the earlier 482 Cr.P.C. application on 16.02.2018 and the communication by the Under Secretary, Goverenment of U.P. dated 06.03.2018 communicating the decision taken by the Government of U.P. to withdraw the prosecution against the applicant to the District Magistrate, Shahajahanpur requesting to pass appropriate order for such withdrawal, speaks volume and need no explanation. There is a change in the establishment after U.P. Assembly Elections in the year 2017 and within a short span of time, withdrawing the prosecution against the applicant that too in a heinous crime under section 376 IPC, the proximity of the time, in decision taking by the State Government and the relevant person in whose favour this withdrawal of the prosecution has been made by the State Government, if taken cumulatively, then the reason would be obvious which needs no elaboration.

[39] As mentioned above, the Senior Prosecuting Officer,

Shahjahanpur after having “sermons” from his political bosses and executive, blindly put his figure of approval by making a mention in the application under section 321 Cr.P.C., that after applying his so-called “स्वतंत्र मस्तिष्क (independent mind)”, he is of the view that the aforesaid criminal case should be withdrawn against the applicant “**in the larger interest of public and the interest of justice.**”

[40] This application was opposed by opposite party no.2 by filing the application dated 24th May, 2018 and now she has wriggled out from her earlier stand by filing an affidavit, relevant paragraph 4, mentioned above. Lastly, Sri Dileep Kumar, learned Senior Advocate appearing for the applicant gave much emphasis upon the e-mail sent by a former Judge of this Court, Mr Justice Kameshwar Nath and Ex Lok Ayukt, Karnataka, who simply enquired about the status of the case from the District Judge, Shahjahanpur by painting on altogether different canvass colouring that the above referred e-mail had adversely influenced the interest of the applicant, the application under section 321 Cr.P.C. was rejected by the court concerned.

Legal Discussions:

[41] For the proper appreciation of the controversy involved, it is imperative to spell out the provisions of Section 321 Cr.P.C. which reads as under:

321. Withdrawal from prosecution. The Public Prosecutor or Assistant Public Prosecutor in charge of a case may, with the consent of the Court, at any time before the judgment is pronounced, withdraw from the prosecution of any person either generally or in respect of any one or more of the offences for which he is tried; and, upon such withdrawal,-

(a) if it is made before a charge has been framed, the accused shall be discharged in respect of such offence or offences;

(b) if it is made after a charge has been framed, or when under this Code no charge is required, he shall be acquitted in respect of such offence or offences: Provided that where such offence-

(i) was against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the Union extends, or

(ii) was investigated by the Delhi Special Police Establishment under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 (25 of 1946), or

(iii) involved the misappropriation or destruction of, or damage to, any property belonging to the Central Government, or

(iv) was committed by a person in the service of the Central Government while acting or purporting to act in the discharge of his official duty, and the Prosecutor in charge of the case has not been appointed by the Central Government, he shall not, unless he has been permitted by the Central Government to do so, move the Court for its consent to withdraw from the prosecution and the Court shall, before according consent, direct the Prosecutor to produce before it the permission granted by the Central Government to withdraw from the prosecution.

Legislative intent

[42] Any crime is said to be committed not against just any individual but against the entire society. Since, the entire society is endangered by an act/offence of accused and the entire society cannot practically sue the accused but State arrogates power and responsibility to initiate prosecution against the offender. It is not a case where the private individual can initiate a prosecution or he/she/they cannot be represented by a counsel of his/her/their choice but such counsel will have to be supervised by Public Prosecutor or Assistant Public Prosecutor. Thus, generally the Public Prosecutor or Assistant Public Prosecutor is the authority who is responsible to conduct the case against the accused in the court of law.

[43] There may be some of occasion wherein the Public Prosecutor does not find enough evidence to proceed further and press the prosecution case against the accused or that he realises that furthering the prosecution case will lead to negating the prosecution evidence or that furthering the prosecution case may not be in the interest of public justice, peace and tranquillity. The legislature provided leeway to the Public Prosecutor and, thus, State Government to end such cases, furthering which the larger public interest may be compromised.

[44] Under these circumstances, Section 321 Cr.P.C. provides a discretion to Public Prosecutor to withdraw from the prosecution, with the consent of the Court wherein he or she thinks that such withdrawal will lead to a larger public interest.

[45] In the celebrated judgement **Sheo Nandan Paswan v. State of Bihar** **[1987 1 SCC page 288]**, it has been mentioned that although the section provides no ground on which withdrawal can be filed by Public Prosecutor, the essential inherent condition read into the section by the Supreme Court is that the withdrawal should be in the interest of administration of justice. It is the responsibility of the respective Government, in which withdrawal application has been filed, to scrutinize the reason behind the withdrawal and verify it accordingly. Furthermore, it is the duty of the court to see that the Public Prosecutor actually applies his free mind and not just act as mere mechanical agent of the State Government.

[46] Now the million dollar question arises as to "what exactly constitute the public interest ?" The condition that a Public Prosecutor can seek a withdrawal from the prosecution on the basis of securing greater public interest has proven to be a vague and the executive has numerous times misused this vagueness on this condition of securing its self-serving political interest.

[47] Although, an exhaustive definition of the public interest is difficult to prepare, however, the court had evaluated and proved over a period of time the scales of public interest in the light of the facts and circumstances of the case.

[48] No doubt, it is explicit prerogative of the State Government to withdraw from the prosecution and Public Prosecutor shall apply his independent and free mind to come to the conclusion as to whether the decision of the State Government falls within the ambit of 'larger public interest'. If the Public Prosecutor concludes that the prosecution should be withdrawn, then it is incumbent upon him to apply in the court with adequate and tangible reasons spelled out in the application. Using of the term **स्वतंत्र मरक्तिष्क, न्यायहित और जमहित** is not going to touch the bar as envisaged in catena of judgements of Hon'ble Apex Court over period of time. If the Public Prosecutor defers from the decision of the State Government and concludes that the case ought not to be withdrawn, then he has got two options.

- (a) Either to ask the State Government to relieve him from a particular case, or least he shall have to resign. Or

(b) To forward the application by giving his own reasoning with the considered opinion that such application is not sustainable on the ground set out by him in the application.

[49] A Public Prosecutor is not supposed to dance to the tune of the State Government nor he is supposed to act as a post office or act under the dictate and command of the State Government. He has to act objectively as he is also an officer of the Court. At the same time, the Court is also free to assess, whether a *prima facie* case is made out or not. If the Court is satisfied then after assigning a reason, has also power to reject the same but it cannot be said that the Public Prosecutor's action will be illegal, if he receives a communication/instructions from the State Government. However, a Public Prosecutor cannot file an application for withdrawal from the prosecution on his own without getting a proper signal from the State Government.

Role of a Public Prosecutor

[50] In the case of Subhash Chandra v Chandigarh Administration [1980 (2) SCC 155] it was held that the Public Prosecutor who alone is entitled to pray for withdrawal, is to act not as a part of executive but as a judicial limb and in praying for withdrawal, he is to exercise his independent discretion even if it incurs the displeasure of his master affecting continuance of his office.

[51] Permission for withdrawal from prosecution cannot be granted mechanically. Withdrawal must be for proper administration of justice and only in the public interest. Hon'ble the Apex Court in the case of Abdul Kareem and others v. State of Karnataka [2008 SCC page 710] held that an application under section 321 Cr.P.C. could not be allowed only on the ground that the State Government has taken a decision for withdrawing the prosecution and such an order could not be passed after examining facts and circumstances of the case.

[52] What the Court has to see as to whether the application has been made in good faith and in the interest of public policy and justice and not to thwart or stifle the process of law. The Court after considering the facts and circumstances of each

case has to see whether the application suffers from improprieties or illegalities as would cause a manifest injustice if consent was given.

[53] Lastly, in the case of Rajendra Kumar v State through Special Police establishment [1980 page 3 SCC page 435] Hon'ble the Supreme Court has held that it shall be duty of the Public Prosecutor to inform the grounds for withdrawal to the Court and it shall be duty of the Court to authorize a search of the reason, which prompt the Public Prosecutor to withdraw from the prosecution. The Court has a responsibility and a stake in the administration of criminal justice and so as the public Prosecutor, its 'Ministers of Justice'. Both have a duty to protect the administration of Criminal Justice against possible abuse or misuse by the Executive by resort to the provisions of Section 321 Cr.P.C. The independence of the judiciary requires that once the case has travelled to the Court, the Court and its officers alone must have control over the case and decide what is to be done in each case.

Duty of the Government

[54] Before instructing a Public Prosecutor for withdrawal from the prosecution, the State Government should also consider the matter carefully and find in which consideration is made, should contain its reason. When the matter is for a benefit of the society, there is no scope of its being confidential, if this procedure is followed, the chances of favouritism or extraneous political persuasion would be curbed to the great extent.

[55] All these legal guidelines have been pronounced by Hon'ble the Apex Court on numerous occasions. Revisiting the instant case on the aforesaid, herein neither the Under Secretary of the State of U.P., while issuing the impugned letter to the District Magistrate, Shahjahanpur dated 06.03.2018 (annexure no. 31] has spelled out a single good reason for the alleged withdrawal of the prosecution against the applicant. “समुचित विचारोपरांत शासन ने उक्त किन्मयानन्द सरस्वती के अभियोग वापस लेने हेतु लोक अभियोजक माननीय न्यायालय में प्रार्थना पत्र प्रस्तुत किये जाने की लिखित अनुमति ले लिया है। This by itself, is nowhere near of initiating any reason for withdrawal of the

prosecution. Similarly after receipt of the aforesaid letter, the so-called use of स्वतंत्र मस्तिष्क by the Public Prosecutor is nothing but a mockery of justice, sham and hoax and facade which clearly indicates that the Senior Public Prosecutor concerned has simply bowed down on the toes of his executive/political majesty.

[56] The Court is duty-bound to refer recent judgement of Hon'ble the Apex Court herein, which has cleared off all the confusions and seeping of interpretation i.e. State of Kerala v. K. Ajit and others [Criminal Appeal No. 698 of 2021 decided on 28th July 2021].

[57] Learned counsel for the applicant has relied upon the following three judgements i.e. (1) Aishwarya Chaudhary v. State of Uttar Pradesh (Application 482 No. 44691 of 2018 decided on 15.05.2019 (2) Abdul Kareem and others v. State of Karnataka [2008 SCC page 710] (3) Rahul Agarwal v. Rakesh Jain [2005 SCC (Cri) 506]

[58] This Court has keenly perused all the aforesaid judgements and from the conclusions of the same, it establishes that they primarily have focussed upon the role of judiciary in deciding the application under section 321 Cr.P.C. There is no quarrel to the legal preposition that under section 321 Cr.P.C., the consent of the Court connotes a supervisory and not adjudicatory manner and the Court has to see that the application moved by the Public Prosecutor for withdrawal of the prosecution has been properly made in a good faith and in the interest of public tranquillity and justice and not to just thwart or stifle process of law but the issue represented in these cases, have no application in the present controversy. In as much as stated above, there is no quarrel to the legal preposition but certainly if executives over-step its boundary, it creates a fault line against any functionary, healthy and liberal democracy.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Untawalia presiding over the case of **Union of India v. Sankal chandHimatwal Sheth [AIR 1977 SC 2328]** has explained the role of judiciary as "*the judiciary is like a watching tower above all the big structures of the other limbs of State. From the top of its respective towers, the highest judiciary either*

by it in the State or in the Centre keeps a watch like a sentinel on the functions of the other limbs of the State as to whether they are working in accordance with the law and the Constitution, the Constitution being supreme.“

[59] Hon'ble the Supreme Court has held in numerous of the cases that though, the post of the Public Prosecutor and the Assistant Public Prosecutor constitute executive posts, they should not act merely as post office between court and the State while exercising the power under section 321 Cr.P.C., they should act with a judicial mind without any interference. Similarly, the court also may grant consent while granting the withdrawal from the prosecution, after holding in-depth probe and scrutiny of all the factual circumstances of the case and after due application of mind. The power assigned under this section is a judicial discretionary power and has to be applied in a judicial manner.

[60] At the cost of repetition, withdrawal of a case could be done only with the consent of the court on the motion initiated by the Public Prosecution. It is upon the Public Prosecutor must be acting in a good faith and that the court is satisfied that exercise of the discretion by a Public Prosecutor is proper and sound, based on reasoning and uninfluenced by extraneous reasons or vague expressions just to assist the political bosses. Normally courts cannot question the decision of the Public Prosecutor under this Section unless it comes to the conclusion that the Public Prosecutor has not applied his mind or his decision is biased, coloured, tainted or motivated one and not sub-serving the public policy. The court has a special duty in this regard as it is an ultimate depository of legislative confidence in granting its consent to withdraw from the prosecution.

[61] Last but not the least, the Court has laid its hand to a recent judgement which has given a new emphasis to the interpretations of section 321 Cr.P.C., which are as under :-

(a) State of Kerala v. K. Ajith [Criminal Appeal No. 297 of 2021, decided on 27.07.2021]

AND

(b) Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay v. Union of India [Writ Petition No. 699

of 2016 dated 10.08.2012], part of which is quoted hereinunder :-

"We are inclined to address the first two issues by this order as these issues are of immediate concern and may be easily disposed of. It may not be out of context to state that issues no. 3 and 4 give rise to substantive question of law which may require some elaborate arguments, which will be taken up on a subsequent date.

Misuse of Prosecutor's Power u/s 321 of Cr.P.C.

Learned amicus has drawn our attention to various instances across the country, wherein various State Governments have resorted to withdrawal of numerous criminal cases pending against M.P./M.L.A. by utilising the power vested under Section 321, Cr.P.C. It merits mentioning that the power under Section 321, Cr.P.C. is a responsibility which is to be utilized in public interest, and cannot be used for extraneous and political considerations. This power is required to be utilized with utmost good faith to serve the larger public interest. Recently, this Court in State of Kerala Vs. K. Ajith, (2021) SCC Online SC 510, held as under :-

"The principles which emerge from the decisions of this Court on the withdrawal of a prosecution under Section 321 of the CrPC can now be formulated :-

(i) Section 321 entrusts the decision to withdraw from a prosecution to the public prosecutor but the consent of the court is required for a withdrawal of the prosecution;

(ii) The public prosecutor may withdraw from a prosecution not merely on the ground of paucity of evidence but also to further the broad ends of public justice;

(iii) The public prosecutor must formulate an independent opinion before seeking the consent of the court to withdraw from the prosecution;

(iv) While the mere fact that the initiative has come from the government will not vitiate an application for withdrawal, the court must make an effort to elicit the reasons for withdrawal so as to ensure that the public prosecutor was satisfied that the withdrawal of the prosecution is necessary for good and relevant reasons;

(v) In deciding whether to grant its consent to a withdrawal, the court exercises a judicial function but it has been described to be supervisory in nature. Before deciding whether to grant its consent the court must be satisfied that :-

(a) The function of the public prosecutor has not been improperly exercised or that it is not an attempt to interfere with the normal course of justice for illegitimate reasons or purposes;

(b) The application has been made in good faith, in the interest of public policy and justice, and not to thwart or stifle the process

of law;

(c) The application does not suffer from such improprieties or illegalities as would cause manifest injustice if consent were to be given;

(d) The grant of consent sub-serves the administration of justice; and ;

(e) The permission has not been sought with an ulterior purpose unconnected with the vindication of the law which the public prosecutor is duty bound to maintain;

(vi) While determining whether the withdrawal of the prosecution subserves the administration of justice, the court would be justified in scrutinizing the nature and gravity of the offence and its impact upon public life especially where matters involving public funds and the discharge of a public trust are implicated; and

(vii) In a situation where both the trial judge and the revisional court have concurred in granting or refusing consent, this Court while exercising its jurisdiction under Article 136 of the Constitution would exercise caution before disturbing concurrent findings. The Court may in exercise of the well-settled principles attached to the exercise of this jurisdiction, interfere in a case where there has been a failure of the trial judge or of the High Court to apply the correct principles in deciding whether to grant or withhold consent.”

In view of the law laid down by this Court, we deem it appropriate to direct that no prosecution against a sitting or former M.P./M.L.A. shall be withdrawn without the leave of the High Court in the respective suo-motu writ petitions registered in pursuance of our order dated 16.09.2020. The High Courts are requested to examine the withdrawals, whether pending or disposed of since 16.09.2020, in light of guidelines laid down by this Court.”

[62] In addition to these guidelines, there is yet another judgement of the Full Bench of this Court i.e. **Criminal Writ (Public Interest Litigation) No. 16507 of 2015** in re withdrawal of criminal cases by the State Government in **Ram Narain Yadav v. State of U.P. and others**. The Full Bench lead by Hon'ble Mr. Justice VK Shukla (as His Lordship then was) replying to the references in the shape of three questions as under:

”1. Whether the power of withdrawal "1. Whether the power of withdrawal can be exercised by State Government under Section 321 of Code of Criminal Procedure in a whimsical or arbitrary manner or it is required to be exercised for the considerations, just, valid and judicially tenable?

2. Whether decision taken by State Government for withdrawal of cases communicated to Public Prosecutor with direction to proceed ahead is

open to judicial review or not in a writ jurisdiction under Article of the Constitution of India?

3. Whether State Government should not be required to make scrutiny of various criminal cases pending in Subordinate Courts to find out if they deserve withdrawal in exercise of powers under section 321 Cr.P.C. irrespective of fact that accused or anyone else has approached the government for this purpose or not?"

[63] The Full Bench replied to the aforesaid queries in a lucid manner quoted herein below:

"Issue No. I: State Government is not at all free to exercise its authority under Section 321 Cr.P.C. in whimsical or arbitrary manner or for extraneous considerations apart from just and valid reasons.

Issue No. II: The decision taken by the State Government for withdrawal of the case communicated to the Public Prosecutor, is open to judicial review under Article 226 of the Constitution of India on the same parameters as are prescribed for invoking the authority of judicial review.

Issue No. III: The State Government is free to act under the parameters provided for to make scrutiny of criminal cases pending in subordinate courts to find out as to whether they deserve withdrawal under section 321 Cr.P.C. or not as it is in the realm of the policy decision, and call on the said score has to be taken by the State Government and same has to be based on the parameters required to be observed while moving an application for withdrawal of prosecution under section 321 Cr.P.C."

[64] Now, comparing the impugned order dated 24.05.2018 passed by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Shahjahanpur (annexure no. 24) on the aforesaid guidelines set up by Hon'ble Apex Court and the Hon'ble Full Bench of this Court. In the impugned order, the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Shahjahanpur has pointed out that this is the case relating to the rape and exploiting the chastity of a woman while filing an application under section 321 Cr.P.C., the learned Senior Presiding Officer at no stage, has pointed out as to how the withdrawal of this prosecution would sub serve the objective of public interest or interest of justice.

[65] As mentioned above, there has to be a cogent and tangible reason, which must be spelled out in such application filed under section 321 Cr.P.C., using the vague phrases "स्वतंत्र मस्तिष्क, न्यायहित और जनहित" is putting the entire facts of the case in the long dark and unending tunnel, which has got no destination. The Senior Prosecuting Officer has not even mentioned on which material he has applied his own independent mind and has drawn the conclusion that the withdrawal of the

prosecution would meet end of justice or in the interest of public at large. Mere mentioning of the phrase “स्वतंत्र मस्तिष्क” (independent mind) casts serious doubt as to whether the concerned Senior Prosecution Officer is an officer of the court or an agent to the executive. While to the number of the decisions and relying upon the victim's statements recorded under section 161 and 164 Cr.P.C., and taking into account her opposition (annexure 23-A) dated 24th May 2018, the Court after marshalling the case on facts and atrocities faced by the opposite party no. 2, clearly mention that since cognizance of the offence was taken, the prosecution has not shown the grounds taken for withdrawal of the prosecution and, accordingly, rejected the application filed under section 321 Cr.P.C.

[66] After going through the impugned judgement with the connotes spelled out by Hon'ble Apex Court while deciding ***Ashwini Upadhyaya's (Supra)***, dated 10.08.2021, the Court is of the considered opinion that the entire process of withdrawing the prosecution against the applicant is well short off the standards set up by Hon'ble Apex Court in this regard and thus do not call for any interference from this Court. So far as learned counsel for the applicant lastly has submitted that opposition no. 2, herself, has given a counter affidavit and its paragraph 4, she averred that she is in the agreement with the decision taken by the State Government deserves no further discussion, as the same lady filing objection dated 24th May 2018 (annexure no. 24-A) of the affidavit. Thus, it could be clearly said that she had been won over by the applicant and, therefore, do not deserve any adjudication in this regard and her said stand shall be seen at the time of the charge.

[67] From the aforesaid discussion, this Court is of view that no case to exercise the power under section 321 Cr.P.C. is made out in favour of the applicant and deserves to be rejected.

Last but not the least, provision of Section 321 Cr.P.C. are completely antithesis of popular couplet from RAMCHARITMANAS :-

‘समरथ कहुँ नहीं दोष गोसाई, रवि पावक सुरसरि की नाई.’

In our criminal dispensation system, we cannot afford to pick and choose depending upon the caste, creed, religion, political affiliation, financial capacity etc. The application of law should be one and uniform to all top to bottom. *“Weak never suck the blood of mighty, as it is done with might and therefore, a weak always remain enimic and sometimes dead.”* This is the binding duty of court of law to come with the side of weak and provides adequate shelter and opportunity for his survival.

[68] However, it has been given to understand that the applicant is an old man of 76 years, suffering from number of age relating ailments, got his eyes surgically operated and the concerned doctor has advised him for bed rest.

[69] Taking into account the humanitarian approach, if the applicant surrenders before the concerned Magistrate on or before 30th October 2022 and applies for bail, his bail application shall be adjudicated and decided strictly in accordance with law. Till 30th October, 2022 from today, no coercive action shall be taken against the applicant in the aforementioned case.

[70] With the aforesaid judgement and order, the instant petition is finally disposed of.

[71] Copy of the order shall be communicated to the concerned authorities within four days forthwith.

Order Date :-30.09.2022

Sumit S/Abhishek Sri