

ORDER BELOW EXH.14
(Passed on 13th June, 2025)

This application is filed on behalf of the complainant for grant of interim compensation under Section 143 (A) of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

2. Perused the application. Till today say not filed by the accused. Hence application proceed without say of the accused.

3. The applicant has asked for interim compensation of 20% of the cheque amount.

4. Heard learned advocate for the complainant. Learned advocate for the complainant submitted that as per Section 143-A of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 interim compensation may kindly be granted.

5. In the present case, the Complaint is filed on 20.06.2023. The concerned provision viz. Section 143A of the Act was inserted in the statute book with effect from 01.09.2018.

6. In *CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. 1160 OF 2019, (Arising out of Special Leave Petition (Criminal) No.3342 of 2019), G.J. RAJA VERSUS TEJRAJ SURANA*. Honourable Apex Court in Para No. 24 has held as under-

24. In the ultimate analysis, we hold Section 143A to be prospective in operation and that the provisions of said Section 143A can be applied or invoked only in cases where the offence under Section 138 of the Act was committed after the introduction of said Section 143A in the statute book. Consequently, the orders passed by the Trial Court as well as the High Court are required to be set aside. The money deposited by the Appellant, pursuant to the interim direction passed by this Court, shall be returned to the Appellant along with interest accrued thereon within two weeks from the date of this order.

7. On perusal of cheque bearing No. 829339 it reveals that the drawer of the cheque i.e. the accused has issued cheque of an amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- in favour of the complainant. Prima facie, it reveals that the cheque has been dishonoured for the reason Funds Insufficient on 01.05.2023. The cheque in question has been dishonoured after effect of Section 143-A of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. The plea of the accused has been recorded on 26.06.2024. He has not pleaded guilty. Therefore, provision of Section 143-A of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 is applicable. Accused appeared in this matter through Ld. Advocate. But, failed to file his say on this application though sufficient opportunity is given. Therefore, nothing is on record to grant the interim compensation less than 20% of the cheque amount. In such circumstances, application deserves to be allowed. Accordingly, I proceed to pass following order.

ORDER

1. The application is allowed.
2. The accused / drawer of the cheque to pay interim compensation to the complainant of an amount of Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only i.e. 20% of cheque amount) under Section 143 (A) of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 within 60 days from the date of this order.

Kudal.
Date : 13/06/2025.

sd/-xxx
(G.A. Kulkarni)
Judicial Magistrate, First Class,
Kudal.