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Contempt Petition 6/26
JASWANT
SINGH KHANUJA
(EX930/18
M357932/16)
Vs.
PUNJAB
NATIONAL BANK

15.05.2026

Present: Sh. Shailender Kumar, Ld. Counsel for the
applicant.
Sh. Arun Kumar Shukla, Ld. Counsel for the
respondent.

1) Reply filed on behalf of the respondent. Copy
supplied. Arguments heard.

2) This is an application under Section 10 & 12 of the
Contempt of Courts Act. It is submitted by the Ld. Counsel for
the petitioner that an award was passed in MACT No. 886/2011
by the Ld. Predecessor Tribunal on 27.04.2018. In the award, it
was directed that certain amount shall be released to the
petitioner immediately while the remaining amount was directed
to be kept in FDRs to be released periodically to the petitioner,
in terms of the award. Thereafter, an execution was filed
bearing Ex. No.930/18. Vide order dt. 25.09.2018, it was
directed that the award amount shall be released to the petitioner
in his bank account maintained at Punjab and Sind Bank,
Vikaspuri, Delhi. The details of the bank account were
mentioned in the said order. However, despite the same, the
award amount was not released by the respondent. Hence, the
present application has been filed seeking initiation of contempt

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proceedings against the erring bank.

3) Ld. Counsel for the respondent has argued that the award amount has been disbursed to the petitioner periodically, in terms of the award, in his bank account maintained at Punjab National Bank. The said release was done as per the instructions of the petitioner. The copy of the statement of the account is attached. Hence, as the amount is already released, the present application is not maintainable and is liable to be dismissed.

4) Ld. Counsel for the applicant submits that there were no such instructions from the petitioner to the respondent for the release of the award amount in the account at PNB. In case such directions were given, the respondent should produce the relevant documents qua the same to show that the said release was made as per the instructions of the petitioner.

5) Ld. Counsel for the respondent has stated that the actual situation is that the petitioner has already expired. The present applicant approached the bank for release of the amount but the same was refused by the bank in the absence of the necessary documents and for fulfillment of the legal formalities. Hence, the present application was filed.

6) Record perused.

7) In the present matter, as mentioned above, it was directed by the Ld. Predecessor Tribunal vide award dt.

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25.09.2018 that the award amount shall be released to the petitioner in his bank account maintained at Punjab & Sind Bank, Vikaspuri Delhi. However, perusal of the reply filed by the respondent shows that the amount was transferred in the account of the petitioner which is maintained at Punjab National Bank. The present applicant has not denied that the said account belongs to the petitioner. Further, the statement of account for the period for the 01.01.2018 till 12.05.2026 has been placed on record as per which the award amount has been released to the petitioner periodically in terms of the award. Further, it is not the case that the account was lying dormant or was not being used by the petitioner. Perusal of the account statement shows that regular withdrawals were made from the said account. Hence, by stretch of no imagination can it be that the petitioner was not aware that the award amount was being credited in his account maintained at Punjab National Bank.

8) As per the admitted case, the petitioner has expired recently on 25.08.2025. Now, merely because the amount was transferred in the account of PNB and not at Punjab & Sind Bank that by itself shall not be ground for initiation of contempt proceedings against the respondent. There is no malicious intent on behalf of the bank. If this was the case, then the amount would not have been released at all. At the cost of repetition, the award amount is already released and utilized by the claimant. Hence, the application is not maintainable.

9) In the application, it is mentioned that the

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respondent has not divulged the details of the account or the FDRs to the applicant. In this regard, Ld. Counsel for the respondent has stated that there is no objection to the same. However, the applicant has to fulfill the legal formalities as per the rules of the bank and thereafter the same can be done.

10) In view of the facts and circumstances as discussed above, in the opinion of the court the present application is not maintainable and the same is dismissed. For other information which the petitioner requires, he can contact the bank on fulfillment of the required legal formalities.

File be consigned to record room.

(Ruchika Singla)
Presiding Officer, MACT-01 (Central)
THC/Delhi/15.05.2026