

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO(s). 1720 OF 2010

RAM KISHAN ...Appellant

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA ...Respondent

## O R D E R

1. This appeal is directed against the judgment and order passed by the High Court of Punjab & Haryana in Criminal Appeal No. 770-SB/1996, dated 29.04.2009. By the impugned judgment and order, the High Court while affirming the judgment and order of the Trial Court has allowed the appeal of the father, mother and other relatives of the husband of the deceased - Smt. Sameet @ Buggal and dismissed the appeal of the appellant- herein.

2. The brief facts are: The deceased was married on 11.06.1992 to the appellant as per Hindu rites and customs, wherein sufficient dowry was given in the form of valuable articles. Soon after the marriage, the deceased returned to her paternal home and disclosed that the appellant, her father-in-law, mother-in-law, husband's brothers, and their wives taunted her for bringing less dowry. After about a month, upon an assurance of good behavior from the appellant and the in-laws of the deceased, she was allowed to go back to her matrimonial home with the brother of the appellant. After a lapse of one and a half months, the brother of the deceased went to bring her back home, when the father-in-law of the deceased demanded for ten thousand rupees and it is only after the father of the deceased handed over the money that he could bring her back to the parental home. When the appellant had come to the house of the deceased, her family members complained about the torture inflicted on her and upon re-assurance, the deceased was allowed to go back to her matrimonial home with the appellant. On a later date the deceased had sent a letter asking her brother, Harpal Singh (PW-6) to bring her back to parental home and it is when the deceased had disclosed the maltreatment and torture that was inflicted by the accused and others and further a specific demand of scooter and refrigerator was made. After the return of PW-6, from the village of the deceased on 16.07.1995, Rajbeer Singh (PW-5) and Harpal Singh (PW-6) received the information about the death of the deceased by drowning in the well. PW-5, thereafter, lodged a complaint that the deceased had committed suicide by jumping into a well on account of demand of dowry and on the basis of the said statement, the FIR came to be recorded and the offence was registered under section 498-A and 304-B of the Indian Penal Code ("the IPC" for short).

3. After the completion of the investigation, the appellant and other family members were charge-sheeted for the aforesaid offences. The Trial Court, taking into consideration the evidence of the prosecution witnesses has come to the conclusion that the deceased committed suicide because of the persistent demand for dowry and non-fulfillment of the same resulting in torture of the deceased which ultimately forced her to drown herself in a well within seven years of marriage and accordingly convicted all the accused persons including the appellant-herein for offences punishable under Sections 498-A and 304-B of the IPC.

4. Being aggrieved by the aforesaid order of conviction and sentence passed by the Trial Court, the appellant-herein and the other accused persons appealed before the High Court. The High Court considering the appellant and not the other members of his family as the beneficiary to the demand of dowry, affirmed the judgment and order of the Trial Court on the



O R D E R

Appeal is dismissed in terms of the signed order.

(NAVEEN KUMAR)  
COURT MASTER

(VINOD KULVI)  
COURT MASTER

(Signed order is placed on the file)