

SUPREME COURT LOK ADALAT

TRANSFER PETITION (C) NO.956 OF 2008

BHAVANA R. BHATIA

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

RAJESH M. BHATIA

RESPONDENT(S)

(With appln(s) for ex-parte stay)

Date : 7th February, 2009.

The above Petition was taken up today for settlement.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ALTAMAS KABIR

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ASOK KUMAR GANGULY

For Petitioner(s) Mr. S. Balaji, Adv.

For Respondent(s)

This matter was taken up at the Supreme Court Lok Adalat with the consent and agreement through their counsel. THE FOLLOWING ORDER/AWARD IS PASSED:

Although, learned counsel for the petitioner-wife is present, neither is the respondent present nor is anybody appearing on his behalf. It has been submitted on behalf of the National Legal Services Authority that the respondent has not appeared even before the Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Centre.

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As far as the wife is concerned, it has been submitted that she has no means to bear the expenses for appearing either before the Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Centre or Lok Adalat. In the circumstances, it has been suggested on behalf of the petitioner that the dispute between the parties could be sent to the Karnataka High Court Mediation Centre since the petitioner is a resident of Bangalore and the respondent stays at Coimbatore.

The suggestion seems to be in order. Accordingly, let the matter be referred to the Karnataka High Court Mediation Centre where the parties are directed to appear. The said Mediation Centre is requested to send a report to this Court within three months from the date of first appearance of the parties.

The National Legal Services Authority is requested to inform the Karnataka High Court Mediation Centre of this order so that the said centre is able to fix a date for the appearance of the parties and to take further steps in the matter. The National Legal Services Authority is also requested to take steps for sending the records of this case to the said Mediation Centre.

[ASOK KUMAR GANGULY, J.]

[ALTAMAS KABIR, J.]