

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NOS.305-306 OF 2012

THE STATE OF PUNJAB

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

AMRITPAL SINGH & ANR.

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

These appeals by the State are directed against the judgment of High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh dated 29.05.2009, whereby while upholding the conviction of the respondents under Section 306 of the Indian Penal Code, the sentence had been reduced to three years rigorous imprisonment to one year rigorous imprisonment while enhancing the fine from Rs.5,000/- each to Rs.1 lakh each.

There is no dispute that on 05.09.1998 deceased Sonia committed suicide. It is also not in dispute that she committed suicide within about seven months of her marriage and, therefore, the provisions of Section 304-B of Indian Penal Code were attracted. The Trial Court and the High Court have held the accused guilty of an offence under Section 306 of Indian Penal Code. The only issue

with regard to the sentence.

The High Court exercised its discretion and reduced the substantive sentence while enhancing the fine substantially. We are, at this stage, not even going into the question whether the High Court was justified in doing so because of the fact that the occurrence took place more than two decades back. We cannot set the clock back after 21 years. The appeals are dismissed accordingly.

.....J.
(DEEPAK GUPTA)

.....J.
(ANIRUDDHA BOSE)

New Delhi
September 18, 2019

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Criminal Appeal No(s).305-306/2012

THE STATE OF PUNJAB

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

AMRITPAL SINGH & ANR.

Respondent(s)

Date : 18-09-2019 These appeals were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANIRUDDHA BOSE

For Appellant(s)

Ms. Ranjeeta Rohatgi, AOR

For Respondent(s)

Mr. N. Gupta, Adv.
Ms. Japneet Kaur, Adv.
Ms. Vriti Gujral, Adv.
Ms. Pallavi Singh, Adv.
Ms. S. Janani, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

The appeals are dismissed in terms of the signed order.

Pending application(s), if any, stands disposed of.

(ARJUN BISHT)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(RENU KAPOOR)
BRANCH OFFICER

(signed order is placed on the file)