IN THE HIGH COURT OF UTTARAKHAND AT NAINITAL

C-482 No. 476 of 2011

Rajendra Singh Sandhu S/o Sri Mahendra Singh Sandhu R/o House No. 210, Village Arsal Parsal, Tahsil Swar, District Rampur, Office at Sandhu Road Lines, New Dashmesh Transport behind P.N.B., Main Road, Bazpur, District Udham Singh Nagar.

...Petitioner

Versus

Orix Auto Infrastructure Services Ltd., Shop No. 65 & 66 S.G.A.D. Complex, Nainital Road Rudrapur, district Udham Singh Nagar Residential Address Plot no. 94 Marol Cooperative Industrial Estate Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri (E) Mumbain 400059, through Umesh Tyagi, Branch Manager, Orex Auto Infrastructure Services Ltd., Haldwani Branch, Haldwani District Nainital.

...Respondent

Hon'ble Prafulla C. Pant, J.

Mr. Sharad Sharma, Sr. Advocate assisted by Mr. J.S. Bisht, Advocate, present for the petitioner.

Heard.

By means of this petition moved under Section 482 Cr.P.C. the petitioner has sought quashing of the proceedings of criminal case no. 187 of 2011 (Orix Auto Infrastructure Services Ltd. Vs. Rajendra Singh) under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act pending in the court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Railway Haldwani.

It is pleaded on behalf of the petitioner that the dispute between the parties was referred to the arbitration and after considering the matter, arbitrator has given its decision.

Having considered the submissions made on behalf of the petitioner and gone through the contents of the papers on record, this Court is of the view that merely on the basis that the dispute has been referred to the arbitrator, and arbitrator has given its decision, it does not affect the criminal liability of a person said to have committed an offence. It is open for the petitioner to raise the plea of innocence or the adjustment as to the payments made subsequent to the issuance of the cheque before the trial court which can appreciate the factual disputes better. It is not desirable on the part of this Court in its jurisdiction under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to interfere with the trial of the case.

Therefore, without expressing any opinion as to the final merits of the case, the petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. is summarily dismissed.

(Stay application no. 567 of 2011 also stands dismissed)

(Prafulla C. Pant, J.)

Dated 27.05.2011 VKG