

IN THE COURT OF SH. ARUN SUKHIJA,
ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE – 07, (CENTRAL DISTRICT)
TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI.

SUIT NO.:- 219/2016

UNIQUE CASE ID NO.:- 619430/2016

IN THE MATTER OF :-

M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd.

**Having its Registered Office at:
Land Mark, Race Course Circle,
Vadodara - 390007.**

**Having its Branch Office at:
E-Block, 2nd Videocon Tower,
Jhandewalan Extension,
New Delhi-110055.**

....Plaintiff

VERSUS

**Kumar Pravin
S/o Sh. Vinod Kumar Pandey,
(Borrower)
H.N. 1364, 2nd Floor,
Sector-7, Extension,
Gurgaon-122001
(Old Address)**

**Also at: Village Ramgdrhwd
East Champaran
Bihar-845433
(New Address)**

....Defendant

SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF RS.3,62,535.55P (RUPEES THREE LAKHS SIXTY TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE AND FIFTY FIVE PAISE ONLY)

Date of institution of the Suit : 16/08/2016
Date on which Judgment was reserved : 12/06/2020
Date of Judgment : 20/06/2020

::- J U D G M E N T -::

By way of present judgment, this Court shall adjudicate upon suit for recovery of Rs.3,62,535.55P (Rupees Three Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Five and Fifty Five Paise Only) filed by the plaintiff against the defendant.

CASE OF THE PLAINTIFF AS PER PLAINT

Succinctly, the necessary facts for just adjudication of the present suit, as stated in the plaint, are as under:-

- (a) The plaintiff bank is a body incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and a banking company under the provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and is having registered office and branch office at the aforementioned addresses. Sh. Mohit Grover is duly authorized representative of the plaintiff bank and is fully conversant with the facts of the case as per information received and derived from the records and the books of the plaintiff bank, maintained in usual and ordinary course of business. He is duly authorized, empowered and competent to sign and verify the pleadings for and on behalf of the plaintiff bank, institute the suit in the Court, prosecute the suit and to do all acts, deeds in general for due prosecution of the suit.

- (b) The defendant is a borrower to the loan agreement. In the month of October 2013, the defendant had approached and requested the plaintiff bank for grant of loan of Rs.4,55,580/- for purchase of the vehicle namely SWIFT/VXI and entered into a Loan Agreement under the loan-cum-hypothecation scheme of the plaintiff. The defendant executed Credit Facility Application along-with standard terms & conditions for the said facility, Deed of Hypothecation and Irrevocable Power of Attorney in favour of plaintiff bank on 08.10.2013. The defendant agreed to repay the said loan in 84 Equated Monthly Installments with interest as per the repayment schedule, the defendant also secured the loan by way of hypothecating the vehicle.
- (c) Keeping in view the request of defendant, the plaintiff bank sanctioned a loan of Rs.4,55,580/- on 11.10.2013 to the dealer Pasco Automobiles, after deducting an amount of Rs.1,450/- towards processing fees, stamp duty & other charges and an amount of Rs.5,580/- towards Motor Secure as per request by the defendant in terms of the loan documents. The said loan was disbursed under the loan-cum-hypothecation scheme as per the request of defendant and defendant undertook to supply the registration number to the plaintiff bank. The defendant agreed to pay the said loan along-with interest @ 11.25% in 84 Equated Monthly Installments of Rs.7,861/-. The said loan was subject to the terms & conditions of the documents, which the defendant executed in favour of the plaintiff bank. The defendant's loan number maintained by the plaintiff bank is LAGUR00027176123. The vehicle of the defendant is registered with the registration authority with registration no. HR-26-CB-9859 and the same was hypothecated in favour of the plaintiff bank in terms of Deed of Hypothecation dated 08.10.2013

executed by the defendant in favour of the plaintiff bank and the charge is registered with the RTO. The said vehicle is the security against the loan amount.

- (d) The defendant, in terms of the Loan documents executed, had paid an amount of Rs.2,35,830/- (30 Equated Monthly Installments) and had defaulted in repayment of Rs.23,583/- (03 Equated Monthly Installments) towards equated monthly installments and Rs.4,383.00 towards late payment & cheque bouncing charges totaling to Rs.27,966/- besides future installments of Rs.3,97,826/- as on 14.07.2016. Since there was default in repayment of the monthly installments, the plaintiff bank in terms of the Loan documents executed by the defendant, recalled the loan facility available to the defendant by way of sending a Loan Recall Notice dated 04.05.2016. Despite issuance of the notice, the defendant has neither cared to reply to the notice nor has made any effort to repay the outstanding amount and also to hand-over the peaceful possession of the vehicle. As per the loan account maintained by the plaintiff bank, the defendant is liable to pay a sum of Rs.3,62,535.55p towards principal, interest, penal interest and other dues as on 14.07.2016.

EX-PARTE PROCEEDINGS

The defendant was served by way of publication in the “Rashtriya Sahara” newspaper on 31.05.2019, but despite service, the defendant has not appeared and proceeded ex-parte vide Order dated 10.12.2019.

EX-PARTE EVIDENCE OF THE PLAINTIFF AND DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON BY PW-1

The plaintiff, in order to prove its case, led plaintiff’s evidence and got examined Sh. Mohit Grover as PW-1. The PW-1 has filed his evidence by way of

affidavit, wherein, he reiterated and reaffirmed the contents of the plaint. PW-1 in his testimony has relied upon the following documents:-

1. Photocopy of Power of Attorney is Ex.PW-1/1 (OSR – 4 pages).
2. Credit Facility Application Form along-with terms and conditions of the loan is Ex.PW-1/2 (11 pages).
3. Deed of Hypothecation is Ex.PW-1/3 (6 pages).
4. Irrevocable Power of Attorney is Ex.PW-1/4 (3 pages).
5. Copy of loan recall notice dated 04.05.2016 is Ex.PW-1/5 (1 page) and photocopy of its postal receipt is Mark-X.
6. Certified copy of Statement of Account dated 14.07.2016 is Ex.PW-1/6 (6 pages).
7. Certificate under Section 2A of the Bankers Book of Evidence Act, 1891 is Ex.PW/17 (1 page).
8. Certificate under Section 65-B of the Indian Evidence Act, 1860 is Ex.PW-1/8 (1 page).

This Court heard ex-parte final arguments, as advanced by Ld. Counsel for the plaintiff through video conferencing. I have perused the material available on record.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE COURT

The plaintiff has filed suit for recovery of the suit amount against the defendant. The defendant was proceeded ex-parte, despite this fact, the plaintiff has to prove its case on merits and satisfy the Court that the plaintiff is entitled for the recovery of the suit amount from the defendant.

As per plaintiff, a sum of Rs.3,62,535.55/- was due as on 14/07/2016 against the defendant. The break-up of the said amount is as under:-

Principal Outstanding	– Rs.3,30,027.00
Late payment penalties	– Rs.1,954.00
Cheque bouncing charges and other charges	– Rs.1,147.00
Interest for the month	– Rs.1,282.00
Prepayment charges @ 5.9% at O/S Principal	– Rs.18,976.55
Interest on pending installment	– Rs.9,149.00
Total	– Rs.3,62,535.55

The plaintiff in the present plaint has claimed a sum of Rs.1,147/- as cheque bouncing charges, but as per Credit Facility Application Form Ex.PW-1/2, the loan was to be repaid by direct debit from the applicant's bank account with ICICI Bank (Direct Debit Method). Hence, the plaintiff is not entitled to claim Rs.1,147/- towards the cheque bouncing charges.

The plaintiff has also claimed a sum of Rs.18,976.55p towards pre-payment charges at the outstanding principal. In the Credit Facility application Form Ex.PW-1/2, no pre-payment charges have been mentioned. Moreover, pre-payment charges are recoverable only when borrower himself is coming forward to make the entire outstanding amount prior to completion of period, for which the loan was advanced whereas, in the present case, it is the plaintiff, who has recalled the loan as defendant defaulted in making regular installment. In these circumstances, plaintiff cannot be held to be entitled to pre-payment charges.

The plaintiff has also claimed amount of Rs.9,149 /- towards interest on the pending installment. Credit facility application form Ex.PW-1/2 reflects the agreed fixed rate of interest at 11.25% p.a., but this interest has already been calculated in the installments, hence, grant of separate interest on the defaulted amount would

result in charging interest twice, therefore, the plaintiff cannot claim interest on the pending installments and consequently, same cannot be awarded.

In the present case, the defendant has not filed the Written Statement to contest the present suit of the plaintiff. The defendant has also not cross-examined the PW-1 to contradict or disprove the case of the plaintiff. The defendant has chosen not to appear and when the case of the plaintiff has gone un-challenged, uncontroverted, un-rebutted and duly corroborated by the documents, this Court has no reason to disbelieve the version of the plaintiff qua the other claims, as mentioned in Ex.PW-1/6.

The present suit of the plaintiff is well within the period of limitation. In the present case, the plaintiff/PW-1 has proved on record the documents, as mentioned in his testimony, showing the liability of the defendant. The plaintiff has been able to prove its case. Hence, the plaintiff is entitled for the recovery of amount of Rs.3,33,263/- from the defendant.

Section-34 CPC postulates and envisages the pendent-elite interest at any rate not exceeding 6% and future interest at any rate not exceeding the rate, at which nationalized banks advance loan. Keeping in mind the mandate of the said proposition, interest of justice would be served if plaintiff is granted simple rate of interest @ 6% per annum from 15.07.2016 till decision of the suit and future rate of interest @ 9% per annum till its realization. The prior interest is already included in Ex.PW-1/6.

Applying priori and posteriori reasoning, this Court is satisfied that plaintiff has been able to prove its case against the defendant for the aforesaid amount.

RELIEF

From the discussions, as adumbrated hereinabove, I hereby pass the following

FINAL ORDER

- a. A decree of Rs.3,33,263/- is passed in favour of the plaintiff and against the defendant alongwith simple rate of interest @ 6% per annum from 15.07.2016 till decision of the suit and future simple rate of interest @ 9% per annum till its realization.
- b. The cost of the suit is also awarded in favour of the plaintiff and against the defendant.

Decree-sheet be prepared accordingly.

File be consigned to Record Room after due compliance.

**Announced through video conferencing on
this 20th day of June, 2020.**

**(ARUN SUKHIJA)
ADJ-07 (Central)
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi**