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M. B. Suresh v. State of Karnataka

(2) (i) s. 376 - Rape - Held: In a case involving charge of rape, evidence of prosecutrix is most vital and is on par with evidence of an injured witness - If it is found credible and inspires total confidence, it can be relied upon even sans corroboration - Court may, however, if it is hesitant to place implicit reliance on it, look into other evidence to lend assurance to it short of corroboration required in the case of an accomplice - Evidence - Evidentiary value of evidence of prosecutrix.

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Hem Raj S/o. Moti Ram v. State of Haryana

(3) ss.376, 302, 201, 363, 369 and 394 - Rape and murder of a six year old girl - Her legs amputed above ankles and anklets stolen - Circumstantial evidence - Conviction by trial court and sentence of death - Acquittal by High Court giving the accused benefit of doubt - Held: High Court has rightly pointed out several missing links in the chain of circumstances leading to failure of prosecution to establish guilt of accused - Further, there are several lapses committed by investigating/ prosecuting agency - There are several discrepancies and inconsistencies in the evidence produced by prosecution before trial court -Judgment of High Court needs no interference --Directions given to identify erring officers and take appropriate departmental action against them in accordance with law - Investigation - Bombay Police Act 1951 - s. 135(1) - Circumstantial evidence.

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(3) (i) Promotion - Major General in DRDO -Recommended by Selection Board for promotion as Lieutenant General - Granted extensions to enable his case for promotion to be considered by Appointment Committee of the Cabinet - ACC not granting approval to recommendations, as rules would not permit promotion on extension - Held: Selection Board had recommended promotion of appellant as Lieutenant General on merits - ACC did not in any manner upset the finding recorded by Selection Board nor did it negate the said recommendation - Therefore, appellant must be deemed to have been found suitable for promotion as Lieutenant General, even by ACC and, as such, he deserves promotion to the rank of Lieutenant General from the date due to him and he shall be deemed to have been in service as Lieutenant

General and entitled to all monetary benefits which would have been so due to him.

(ii) Promotion during extension of service - Held: The vacancy against which appellant was considered had arisen well before date of his superannuation, but since Service Selection Board was convened only two days prior to date of his superannuation as Major General, respondents must squarely shoulder the blame and responsibility of the delay - It is not as if the vacancy came into existence after appellant had reached the age of retirement on superannuation - Denial of promotion to him mainly for the reason that he was on extension in service, is unsustainable besides being arbitrary - Therefore, the basis on which the claim of appellant for promotion as Lieutenant General was declined by ACC is rejected -Accordingly, operative part of order of ACC set aside - Administrative Law - Legitimate expectation.

(Also see under: Army Rules; and Constitution of India, 1950)

Major General H.M. Singh, VSM v. Union of India and Anr. 270

SUIT:

Suit for title and possession - Onus - Held: In a suit for declaration of title and for possession, burden always lies on plaintiff to make out and establish his case by adducing sufficient evidence and the weakness, if any, of the case set up by defendants would not be a ground to grant relief to plaintiff - In the instant case, trial court as well as High Court rather than examining in depth, the question, as to whether plaintiffs have succeeded in establishing their title to suit land, went on to examine in depth

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the weakness of defendants' title - Plaintiffs have not succeeded in establishing their title and possession over suit land - Judgment of trial court, affirmed by High Court, is set aside.

(Also see under: Evidence)

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WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1923:

(i) s.30, first proviso - Substantial question of law - Appeal before High Court against order of Commissioner awarding compensation - Held: In terms of 1st proviso, no appeal is maintainable against any order passed by Commissioner unless a substantial question of law is involved - In the instant case, High Court has neither referred to nor determined any question of law much less a substantial question of law existence whereof was a condition precedent for maintainability of an appeal u/s. 30 - Inasmuch as High court remained oblivious of the basic requirement of law for maintainability of an appeal before it and inasmuch as it treated the appeal to be one on facts, it

committed an error which needs to be corrected.

(ii) Claim petition - Death of a driver - Commissioner awarding compensation - High Court setting aside the award holding that relationship of employer and employee was not proved - Held: Commissioner had recorded a finding of fact that deceased was employed as a driver by owner of vehicle no matter the owner happened to be his brother - That finding could not be lightly interfered with or reversed by High Court - Order of High Court set aside and that passed by Commissioner restored.

Smt. T.S. Shylaja v. Oriental Insurance Co. & Anr.

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