



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH**

217-4

**FAO-2309-2007 (O&M)**

**Date of Decision: 04.04.2025**

Smt. Sudami Devi (Since deceased through LRs)

.....Appellant

Vs.

Joginder Pal and others

.....Respondents

**CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE SUDEEPTI SHARMA**

Present: Mr. Vishal Jassal, Advocate  
for the appellant.

Mr. Pradeep Goyal, Advocate  
for respondent No.3

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**SUDEEPTI SHARMA J. (ORAL)**

**CM-5571-CII-2025**

The instant application has been filed seeking impleadment of the LRs of the appellant-Sudami Devi (widow of claimant-Ram Avadh), who is stated to have expired on 29.05.2024 during the pendency of the present appeal.

For the reasons mentioned in the application, the same is ***allowed*** and the persons mentioned in para No.3 of the application, are ordered to be brought on record as legal representatives of deceased-appellant-Sudami Devi(widow of Ram Avadh).

Amended memo of parties is ordered to be taken on record.

Registry to tag the same at an appropriate place.

**FAO-2309-2007**

The present appeal has been preferred against the award dated 01.06.2002 passed in the claim petition filed under Section 166 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 by the learned Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Karnal (for



short, 'the Tribunal') for enhancement of compensation, granted to the appellant/claimant to the tune of Rs.2,13,400/- alongwith interest at the rate of 9% per annum on account of death due to the injuries sustained by the appellant- Ram Avadh in a Motor Vehicular Accident, occurred on 20.06.1997.

2. As sole issue for determination in the present appeal is confined to quantum of compensation awarded by the learned Tribunal, a detailed narration of the facts of the case is not reproduced and is skipped herein for the sake of brevity.

### **SUBMISSIONS OF THE LEARNED COUNSELS FOR THE PARTIES**

3. The learned counsel for the appellant/claimant contends that the compensation assessed by the learned Tribunal is on the lower side. He further contends that Ram Avadh (since deceased) was working as employee with Hindustan General Industries, Nangloi and 45 years of age at the time of the accident. He further contends:-

ii) That Ram Avadh remained admitted in Safdarjang Hospital, Delhi from 21.6.1997 to 19.07.1997 and, thereafter, he was shifted to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi, where he remained admitted from 19.07.1997 to 22.07.1997. Lastly he got himself examined on 18.08.1998 from Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi but he could not survive due to the injuries sustained in the accident and died on 26.08.1998 in ESI Hospital, Delhi.

iii) That the amount granted for funeral expenses is on lower side. Further, no amount was granted for loss of consortium and loss of estate. Therefore, he prays that the present appeal be allowed and compensation be enhanced, as per latest law.



4. *Per contra*, learned counsel for respondent-Insurance Company, however, vehemently argues on the lines of the award and contends that the amount of compensation as assessed by the Ld. Tribunal, has rightly been granted to the claimant-Ram Avadh . Therefore, he prays for dismissal of the present appeal.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the whole record of this case.

6. A perusal of the award shows that the Ld. Tribunal has rightly assessed the monthly income of the claimant-Ram Avadh as Rs.1800/-. Further, he was 45 years of age at the time of the accident.

ii) Further perusal of the record shows that the accident, which caused the injuries to claimant-Ram Avadh, took place on 20.06.1997 and he later on died on 18.08.1998. During this time span, the deceased remained admitted in the Hospital for his life saving treatment and during this course, he must have endured unbearable pain on his person. This Court has already dealt with the same aspect in the case bearing **FAO No.5040 of 2006** titled as ***Hans Raj and another Vs. Mohit Mittal and others***. The relevant portion of the same is reproduced as under:-

“10. *The claimants are also entitled for pain and suffering in view of judgment of Hon’ble the Apex Court in a case of **Divisional Manager, Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd vs. Maran Chandra Das and others, 2023 ACJ 864** wherein it has been held as under:-*

*Having heard learned counsel for the petitioner at a considerable length, we do not find any ground to interfere with the impugned judgment dated 7.1.2021 passed by the High Court of Tripura.*



2. *The question of law sought to be raised on behalf of the petitioner does not arise for consideration for the reason that the deceased son of the respondent(s) met with an accident on 20.10.2015 and he remained hospitalised at Kolkata where multiple surgeries were performed on him. However, he could not survive and succumbed to injuries on 13.9.2016.*

3. *In the peculiar facts and circumstances of this case, where the parents witnessed the pain, agony and suffering of their son for almost one year, the compensation awarded by the High Court, under the head of pain and suffering, cannot be said to be without any basis. The parents themselves also suffered unbearable pain every moment during this entire period”*

11. *In view of the above referred to **judgment (supra)**, the claimants/appellants are held entitled for grant of compensation under the head of pain and suffering, as the deceased remained admitted in the hospital w.e.f 09.02.2005 to 14.04.2005.”*

iii) Further perusal of the record shows that the amount granted for funeral expenses is on lower side. Further, no amount was granted for loss of consortium and loss of estate. Therefore, the award requires indulgence of this Court.

### **SETTLED LAW ON COMPENSATION**

7. Hon'ble Supreme Court has settled the law regarding grant of compensation with respect to the disability. The Apex Court in the case of **Raj Kumar Vs. Ajay Kumar and Another (2011) 1 Supreme Court Cases 343**, has held as under:-



**General principles relating to compensation in injury cases**

5. The provision of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 ('Act' for short) makes it clear that the award must be just, which means that compensation should, to the extent possible, fully and adequately restore the claimant to the position prior to the accident. The object of awarding damages is to make good the loss suffered as a result of wrong done as far as money can do so, in a fair, reasonable and equitable manner. The court or tribunal shall have to assess the damages objectively and exclude from consideration any speculation or fancy, though some conjecture with reference to the nature of disability and its consequences, is inevitable. A person is not only to be compensated for the physical injury, but also for the loss which he suffered as a result of such injury. This means that he is to be compensated for his inability to lead a full life, his inability to enjoy those normal amenities which he would have enjoyed but for the injuries, and his inability to earn as much as he used to earn or could have earned. (See C.K. Subramonia Iyer v. T. Kunhikuttan Nair, AIR 1970 Supreme Court 376, R.D. Hattangadi v. Pest Control (India) Ltd., 1995 (1) SCC 551 and Baker v. Willoughby, 1970 AC 467).

6. The heads under which compensation is awarded in personal injury cases are the following :

**Pecuniary damages (Special Damages)**

(i) Expenses relating to treatment, hospitalization, medicines, transportation, nourishing food, and miscellaneous expenditure.

(ii) Loss of earnings (and other gains) which the injured would have made had he not been injured, comprising :

(a) Loss of earning during the period of treatment;

(b) Loss of future earnings on account of permanent disability.

(iii) Future medical expenses. Non-pecuniary damages (General Damages)

(iv) Damages for pain, suffering and trauma as a consequence of the injuries.

(v) Loss of amenities (and/or loss of prospects of marriage).

(vi) Loss of expectation of life (shortening of normal longevity).

In routine personal injury cases, compensation will be awarded only under heads (i), (ii)(a) and (iv). It is only in serious cases of injury, where there is specific medical evidence corroborating the evidence of the claimant, that compensation will be granted under any of the heads (ii)(b), (iii), (v) and (vi) relating to loss of future earnings on account of permanent disability, future medical expenses, loss of amenities (and/or loss of prospects of marriage) and loss of expectation of life.

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**19. We may now summarise the principles discussed above :**

(i) All injuries (or permanent disabilities arising from injuries), do not result in loss of earning capacity.



(ii) *The percentage of permanent disability with reference to the whole body of a person, cannot be assumed to be the percentage of loss of earning capacity. To put it differently, the percentage of loss of earning capacity is not the same as the percentage of permanent disability (except in a few cases, where the Tribunal on the basis of evidence, concludes that percentage of loss of earning capacity is the same as percentage of permanent disability).*

(iii) *The doctor who treated an injured-claimant or who examined him subsequently to assess the extent of his permanent disability can give evidence only in regard the extent of permanent disability. The loss of earning capacity is something that will have to be assessed by the Tribunal with reference to the evidence in entirety.*

(iv) *The same permanent disability may result in different percentages of loss of earning capacity in different persons, depending upon the nature of profession, occupation or job, age, education and other factors.*

**20. The assessment of loss of future earnings is explained below with reference to the following**

**Illustration 'A'** : *The injured, a workman, was aged 30 years and earning Rs. 3000/- per month at the time of accident. As per Doctor's evidence, the permanent disability of the limb as a consequence of the injury was 60% and the consequential permanent disability to the person was quantified at 30%. The loss of earning capacity is however assessed by the Tribunal as 15% on the basis of evidence, because the claimant is continued in employment, but in a lower grade. Calculation of compensation will be as follows:*

a) *Annual income before the accident : Rs. 36,000/-.*

b) *Loss of future earning per annum*

*(15% of the prior annual income) : Rs. 5400/-.*

c) *Multiplier applicable with reference to age : 17*

d) *Loss of future earnings : (5400 x 17) : Rs. 91,800/-*

**Illustration 'B'** : *The injured was a driver aged 30 years, earning Rs. 3000/- per month. His hand is amputated and his permanent disability is assessed at 60%. He was terminated from his job as he could no longer drive. His chances of getting any other employment was bleak and even if he got any job, the salary was likely to be a pittance. The Tribunal therefore assessed his loss of future earning capacity as 75%. Calculation of compensation will be as follows :*

a) *Annual income prior to the accident : Rs. 36,000/- .*

b) *Loss of future earning per annum*

*(75% of the prior annual income) : Rs. 27000/-.*

c) *Multiplier applicable with reference to age : 17*

d) *Loss of future earnings : (27000 x 17) : Rs. 4,59,000/-*

**Illustration 'C'** : *The injured was 25 years and a final year Engineering student. As a result of the accident, he was in coma for two months, his right hand was amputated and vision was*



*affected. The permanent disablement was assessed as 70%. As the injured was incapacitated to pursue his chosen career and as he required the assistance of a servant throughout his life, the loss of future earning capacity was also assessed as 70%. The calculation of compensation will be as follows :*

- a) Minimum annual income he would have got if had been employed as an Engineer : Rs. 60,000/-*
- b) Loss of future earning per annum (70% of the expected annual income) : Rs. 42000/-*
- c) Multiplier applicable (25 years) : 18*
- d) Loss of future earnings : (42000 x 18) : Rs. 7,56,000/-*

*[Note : The figures adopted in illustrations (A) and (B) are hypothetical. The figures in Illustration (C) however are based on actuals taken from the decision in Arvind Kumar Mishra (supra)].*

8. Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of **National Insurance Company Ltd. Vs. Pranay Sethi & Ors.** [(2017) 16 SCC 680] has clarified the law under Sections 166, 163-A and 168 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, on the following aspects:-

- (A) Deduction of personal and living expenses to determine multiplicand;
- (B) Selection of multiplier depending on age of deceased;
- (C) Age of deceased on basis for applying multiplier;
- (D) Reasonable figures on conventional heads, namely, loss of estate, loss of consortium and funeral expenses, with escalation;
- (E) Future prospects for all categories of persons and for different ages: with permanent job; self-employed or fixed salary.
- The relevant portion of the judgment is reproduced as under:-

*“ Therefore, we think it seemly to fix reasonable sums. It seems to us that reasonable figures on conventional heads, namely, loss of estate, loss of consortium and funeral expenses should be Rs.15,000, Rs.40,000 and Rs.15,000 respectively. The principle of revisiting the said heads is an acceptable principle. But the revisit should not be fact-centric or quantum-centric. We think that it would be condign that the amount that we have quantified should be enhanced on percentage basis in every three years and the enhancement should be at the rate of 10% in a span of three years. We are disposed to hold so because that will bring in consistency in respect of those heads.”*

9. Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of **Erudhaya Priya Vs. State Express Tran. Corpn. Ltd.** 2020 ACJ 2159, has held as under:-



“ 7. There are three aspects which are required to be examined by us:

**(a) the application of multiplier of '17' instead of '18';**

The aforesaid increase of multiplier is sought on the basis of age of the appellant as 23 years relying on the judgment in *National Insurance Company Limited v. Pranay Sethi and Others*, 2017 ACJ 2700 (SC). In para 46 of the said judgment, the Constitution Bench effectively affirmed the multiplier method to be used as mentioned in the table in the case of *Sarla Verma (Smt) and Others v. Delhi Transport Corporation and Another*, 2009 ACJ 1298 (SC). In the age group of 15-25 years, the multiplier has to be '18' along with factoring in the extent of disability.

The aforesaid position is not really disputed by learned counsel for the respondent State Corporation and, thus, we come to the conclusion that the multiplier to be applied in the case of the appellant has to be '18' and not '17'.

**(b) Loss of earning capacity of the appellant with permanent disability of 31.1%**

In respect of the aforesaid, the appellant has claimed compensation on what is stated to be the settled principle set out in *Jagdish v. Mohan & Others*, 2018 ACJ 1011 (SC) and *Sandeep Khanuja v. Atul Dande & Another*, 2017 ACJ 979 (SC). We extract below the principle set out in the *Jagdish* (*supra*) in para 8:

"8. In assessing the compensation payable the settled principles need to be borne in mind. A victim who suffers a permanent or temporary disability occasioned by an accident is entitled to the award of compensation. The award of compensation must cover among others, the following aspects:

- (i) Pain, suffering and trauma resulting from the accident;
- (ii) Loss of income including future income;
- (iii) The inability of the victim to lead a normal life together with its amenities;
- (iv) Medical expenses including those that the victim may be required to undertake in future; and
- (v) Loss of expectation of life."

[emphasis supplied]

The aforesaid principle has also been emphasized in an earlier judgment, i.e. the *Sandeep Khanuja* case (*supra*) opining that the multiplier method was logically sound and legally well established to quantify the loss of income as a result of death or permanent disability suffered in an accident.

In the factual contours of the present case, if we examine the disability certificate, it shows the admission/hospitalization on 8 occasions for various number of days over 1½ years from August 2011 to January 2013. The nature of injuries had been set out as under:



**"Nature of injury:**

- (i) compound fracture shaft left humerus
- (ii) fracture both bones left forearm
- (iii) compound fracture both bones right forearm
- (iv) fracture 3rd, 4th & 5th metacarpals right hand
- (v) subtrochanteric fracture right femur
- (vi) fracture shaft femur
- (vii) fracture both bones left leg

We have also perused the photographs annexed to the petition showing the current physical state of the appellant, though it is stated by learned counsel for the respondent State Corporation that the same was not on record in the trial court. Be that as it may, this is the position even after treatment and the nature of injuries itself show their extent. Further, it has been opined in para 13 of Sandeep Khanuja case (supra) that while applying the multiplier method, future prospects on advancement in life and career are also to be taken into consideration.

We are, thus, unequivocally of the view that there is merit in the contention of the appellant and the aforesaid principles with regard to future prospects must also be applied in the case of the appellant taking the permanent disability as 31.1%. The quantification of the same on the basis of the judgment in National Insurance Co. Ltd. case (supra), more specifically para 61(iii), considering the age of the appellant, would be 50% of the actual salary in the present case.

**(c) The third and the last aspect is the interest rate claimed as 12%**

In respect of the aforesaid, the appellant has watered down the interest rate during the course of hearing to 9% in view of the judicial pronouncements including in the Jagdish's case (supra). On this aspect, once again, there was no serious dispute raised by the learned counsel for the respondent once the claim was confined to 9% in line with the interest rates applied by this Court.

**CONCLUSION**

8. The result of the aforesaid is that relying on the settled principles, the calculation of compensation by the appellant, as set out in para 5 of the synopsis, would have to be adopted as follows:

<b>Heads</b>	<b>Awarded</b>
Loss of earning power (Rs.14,648 x 12 x 31.1/100)	Rs. 9,81,978/-
Future prospects (50 per cent addition)	Rs.4,90,989/-



<i>Medical expenses including transport charges, nourishment, etc.</i>	<i>Rs.18,46,864/-</i>
<i>Loss of matrimonial prospects</i>	<i>Rs.5,00,000/-</i>
<i>Loss of comfort, loss of amenities and mental agony</i>	<i>Rs.1,50,000/-</i>
<i>Pain and suffering</i>	<i>Rs.2,00,000/-</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>Rs.41,69,831/-</i>

*The appellant would, thus, be entitled to the compensation of Rs. 41,69,831/- as claimed along with simple interest at the rate of 9% per annum from the date of application till the date of payment.*

### **RELIEF**

10. In view of the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the above referred to judgments, the present appeal is **allowed** and the award dated 01.06.2002 is modified accordingly. The appellants, who are the LRs of claimant- Ram Avadh are entitled to the enhanced compensation as per the calculations made here-under:-

<b><i>Sr. No.</i></b>	<b><i>Heads</i></b>	<b><i>Compensation Awarded</i></b>
1	Monthly Income	Rs.1800/-
2	Future prospects @ 25%	Rs.450 /- (25% of 1800/-)
3	Deduction towards personal expenditure 1/3rd	Rs.750/- (1/3rd of 2250/-)
4	Total Income	Rs.1500/- (2250-750)
5	Multiplier	14
6	Annual Dependency	Rs.2,52,000/- (1500x12x14)
7	Loss of Estate	Rs.18,000/-
9	Pain and suffering	Rs.60,000/-
10	Funeral Expenses	Rs.18,000/-
11	Loss of Consortium Filial : Rs.48,000 x Parental: Rs.48,000X2 Spousal:Rs.48,000X 1	Rs.1,44,000/-



	<b>Total Compensation</b>	<b>Rs.4,92,000/-</b>
	<b>Amount Awarded by the Tribunal</b>	<b>Rs.2,13,400 /-</b>
	<b>Enhanced amount</b>	<b>Rs.2,78,600/- (4,92,000 -2,13,400)</b>

11. So far as the interest part is concerned, as held by Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Dara Singh @ Dhara Banjara Vs. Shyam Singh Varma** 2019 ACJ 3176 and **R.Valli and Others VS. Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation** (2022) 5 Supreme Court Cases 107, the appellant-claimant is granted the interest @ 9% per annum on the enhanced amount from the date of filing of claim petition till the date of its realization.

12. The respondent Insurance Company is directed to deposit the enhanced amount of compensation alongwith interest with the Tribunal within a period of two months from the date of receipt of copy of this judgment.

13. Vide order of even date passed in application bearing No CM-5571-CII-2025, this Court had brought the Legal Representatives of the appellant-Sudami Devi (widow of claimant-Ram Avadh), on record. The Ld. Tribunal is further directed to disburse the enhanced amount of compensation in the accounts of legal representatives of appellant-Sudami widow of claimant-Ram Avadh, in equal shares, who are also directed to furnish their bank details to the Ld. Tribunal.

14. The Insurance Company is hereby directed to disburse the current scheduled fee to Mr. Pradeep Goyal, Advocate within a period of 20 days from the date of receipt of the copy of this order, in view of the order dated 18.07.2024 passed in FAO No.1682 of 2007, by this Court.



15. Pending application(s), if any, also stand disposed of.

**(SUDEEPTI SHARMA)**  
**JUDGE**

**04.04.2025**  
sonia arora

Whether speaking/non-speaking : Speaking  
Whether reportable : Yes/No