

IN THE COURT OF PRL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE & CJM., GADAG & COMMISSIONER FOR WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION, GADAG AT GADAG

Present: Sri. Sreenivasa.

B.A. LLB.

Prl. Senior Civil Judge & CJM., Gadag.

ECA No. 1/2018

Dated this 30th day of December 2019

PETITIONERS:

Hanumanthappa S/o Parasappa Naikar,
 Age: 48 Years., Occ: Coolie,
 R/o Beladhadi, Tq: Gadag.

 Smt. Fakiravva W/o Hanumantappa Naikar, Age: 40 Years., Occ: Coolie, R/o Beladhadi, Tq: Gadag.

(By Sri AAH Adv.,)

-Vs-

RESPONDENTS:

- 1. Smt. Sarvajithkour W/o Madhadu Age: Major, Occ: Transportation Business,R/o H. No.3040/13, behind Kannada school, Bhad 2nd Ward, Karwar, Dist: Karwar.
- Arun S/o Prabhakar Chandekar,
 Age: Major, Occ: Contractor & Business
 R/o Shiravad, Bangarappa Nagar,
 Karwar, Dist: Karwar.
 Since deceased by his LRS

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- 2a. Smt. Pooja W/o Arun Chandekar, Age: 52 years, Occ: Household work, R/o Kaiga Road, Shiravad, Bangarappa Nagar, Karwar, Tq: Dist: Karwar.
- 2b. Ashwini D/o Arun Chandekar, Age: 28 years, Occ: Household work, R/o Kaiga Road, Shiravad, Bangarappa Nagar, Karwar, Tq: Dist: Karwar.
- 2c. Abhishek S/o Arun Chandekar, Age: 22 years, Occ: Student, R/o Kaiga Road, Shiravad, Bangarappa Nagar, Karwar, Tq: Dist: Karwar.
- 3. The new India Assurance Company Ltd., Shri. Prasad Building, High Church Road, Karwar.

(R1 Exparte R2 dead, R3 by Sri. SRR Adv.,)

JUDGEMENT

This is a petition filed by the Petitioner U/s. 22 of the W.C. Act 1923 (now called as Employees Compensation Act, 1923) claiming compensation of Rs.5,00,000/- on account of death of Maruti along with interest at the rate of 18% p.a. from the date of the accident till realization against the respondents jointly and severally.

2. The brief facts of the case of the petitioners is as follows:

That, the deceased Maruti, who was working as a Hamal in Tipper of the respondent No.1 bearing Reg.No.KA-30/1959 from last 21/2 month on a monthly salary of Rs.3,000/-. Further it is the case of the petitioners that, on the date of accident, i.e., 17.12.2003 at about 8.00 am as per the directions and authority of respondent No.1 and 2 the deceased Maruti along with other coolie workers went for coolie work in the mud quarry belonging to respondents No.1 and 2 in the said Tipper. On same day at about 4.30 pm in the presence of respondent No.2, when the deceased was loading the mud in the Tipper of the respondent No.1, suddenly the mud was fell down upon the deceased Maruti. Thereafter with the help of other co-workers and driver of the Tipper, remove the mud fell upon the Maruti and he was shifted to Srimantaraj Diagnosis Research Center, Karwar and given first aid to Maruti and thereafter shifted to KIMS Hospital, Hubli for further treatment. In there he was admitted as indoor patient

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from 27.12.2003 and the respondent No.2 colluding with the doctor obtained the signature of the deceased Maruti without intimation that what they has ewritten in the white paper. Thereafter the respondent No.2 gave Rs.4,000/- for treatment. The petitioner enquired in the police station that, there is no complaint lodged in respect of the accident. Thereafter the petitioner issued the complaint through registered post on 04.03.2004 to Karwar P.S. and they registered the case in Cr. No.38/2004. The said Maruti during the course of his employment he sustained injuries to his right hand, back bone and legal and admitted in the KIMS Hospital. But the doctor said that, he never cure to his injuries and the petitioner came back from the Hubli and admitted in Gadag District Hospital. But it was no use Maruti said the from there and returned succumbed to the injuries on 05.03.2005.

3. Further it is the case of the petitioners that, the accident was occurred due negligence of the respondent No.2.

The respondent No.2 gave Rs.4000/- for his treatment and not gave any compensation to them. After the death

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of Maruti the petitioner requested to respondents for compensation, but they have postponed the same and not allotted any compensation to the petitioners. The respondents No.1 to 3 are the owners and insurance of the offending vehicle and the deceased Maruti was working under the respondents No.1 and 2 and getting salary of Rs.3,000/- per month and the accident was occurred due to the negligence of the respondent No.2 and it was occurred during the course of his employment. Hence, for all these grounds the petitioners are prayed for compensation of Rs.5,00,000/- from the respondents jointly and severally.

- 2. In response to the notices on the main petition, the respondent No.1 placed exparte and respondent No.2 dead and LRS of respondent No.2 brought on record and respondent No.3 appeared before the Court through his advocate. The respondents No.3 has filed the written statement before the Asst. Labour Commissioner, Hubli in W.C. No.26/2006.
- 3. The written statement filed by the respondent No.3 is as under:

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The respondent No.3 contended that, the petition filed by the petitioners is not maintainable either in law or on facts. Further contended that, the alleged accident took place at the negligence of respondent No.2 and the deceased employee by the respondent No.2 for mud quarry work. Further he has contended that, as per the pleadings of the petition the respondent No.1 and 2 alone are responsible for the payment of compensation to the petitioners. The deceased son of petitioners was not worked as Hamal in the Lorry of respondent No.2 nor he was employed by the respondent No.2 in his lorry, the deceased was a coolie in the mud quarry belong to respondent No.1 and 2 who met with accident while he was doing quarry work at the instance of respondent No.2. So, the respondent No.3 is not liable to pay the compensation as claimed in the petition. Hence, prayed to dismiss the petition against the respondent No.3.

5. On the basis of the above said rival pleadings of the petitioners, following issues have been framed.

ISSUES

- 1. Whether the Petitioners prove that, the deceased Maruti was working as a Hamal of the Tipper bearing its Reg. No. KA-30/1959 under respondent No.1 for the last 2 ½ months by virtue of which there existed the relationship of employer and employee in between the deceased Maruti and respondent No.1?
- 2. Whether the petitioners prove that on 17.12.2003 as per the directions / authority of respondent No.1 and 2 went to coolie work in the mud quarry belonging to respondents No.1 and 2 along with other co-workers for loading the mud in the said Tipper suddenly the mud was fell down upon the deceased Maruti and he sustained injuries and while treating him he succumbed to the injuries and that the above said accident arose out and in the course of his employment as alleged in the petition?
- 3. Whether the respondent No.3 proves that, the deceased was not working as a Hamal in the lorry nor he was employed by the respondent No.2 in his lorry?
- 4. Whether the petitioners prove that the deceased Maruti was aged about 19 years and was getting a monthly salary of

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Rs.3,000/- p.m. at the time of the above said accident in question?

- 5. Whether the petitioners are entitled to any compensation? If so, to what amount and from whom?
- 6. What order or Award?
- 6. In support of their case, the petitioner No.1 has got examined himself as P.W.1 and has got examined 2 witnesses as P.W.2 and 3 and 11 marked the documents at Ex.P1 to 11 in this case and closed the side. On the other hand, the employee of the respondent No.3 company by name Mohan A. Cholachagudda himself got examined as R.W.1 and not got marked any documents and closed the side.
- Heard the arguments of both sides at length and perused the records of this case.
- 8. My answer to the above said issues are as under:

Issue No.1: In the affirmative

Issue No.2: In the affirmative

Issue No.3 : In the negative

Issue No.4: In the affirmative

Issue No.5: In the affirmative

Issue No.6: As per final order for the

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following

REASONS

- 9. Issue No.1 to 5:- The issues are inter-related with each other as such they are takenup for discussion together to avoid the repetition of facts.
- In order to prove the case, the petitioner No.1 by name 10. Hanumanthappa who is the father of the deceased Maruti examined as P.W.1. He has filed his affidavit in the form of chief examination. According to him, his son deceased Maruti was working as a Hamal in Tipper of the respondent No.1 bearing Reg.No.KA-30/1959 from 2½ month on a monthly salary of Rs.3,000/-. last Further it is the case of the petitioners that, on the date of accident, i.e., 17.12.2003 at about 8.00 am as per the directions and authority of respondent No.1 and 2 the deceased Maruti along with other coolie workers went for coolie work in the mud quarry belonging to respondents No.1 and 2 in the said Tipper. On the same day at about 4.30 pm in the presence of respondent No.2, when the deceased was loading the mud in the Tipper of the respondent No.1, suddenly the mud was fell down upon

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the deceased Maruti. Thereafter with the help of other co-workers and driver of the Tipper, remove the mud fell upon the Maruti and he was shifted to Srimantaraj Diagnosis Research Center, Karwar and given first aid to Maruti and thereafter shifted to KIMS Hospital, Hubli for further treatment. In that hospital he was admitted as indoor patient from 27.12.2003 and the respondent No.2 colluding with the doctor obtained the signature of the deceased Maruti without intimation that what they Thereafter have written in the white paper. respondent No.2 gave Rs.4,000/- for treatment. The petitioner enquired in the police station that, there is no complaint lodged in respect of the accident. Thereafter the petitioner issued the complaint through registered post on 04.03.2004 to Karwar P.S. and they registered the case in Cr. No.38/2004. The said Maruti during the course of his employment he sustained injuries to his right hand, back bone and legal and admitted in the KIMS Hospital. But the doctor said that, he never cure to his injuries and the petitioner came back from the Hubli and admitted in Gadag District Hospital. But it

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was no use they returned from there and the said Maruti succumbed to the injuries on 05.03.2005.

- Further he has stated that, the accident was occurred 3. due negligence of the respondent No.2. The respondent No.2 gave Rs.4000/- for his treatment and not gave any compensation to them. After the death of Maruti the petitioner requested to respondents for compensation, but they have postponed the same and not allotted any compensation to the petitioners. The respondents No.1 to 3 are the owners and insurance of the offending vehicle and the deceased Maruti was working under the respondents No.1 and 2 and getting salary of Rs.3,000/per month and the accident was occurred due the negligence of the respondent No.2 and it was occurred during the course of his employment. Hence, for all have prayed petitioners the grounds these compensation of Rs.5,00,000/- from the respondents jointly and severally.
- 10. In addition to his oral evidence, he has got examined 2 witnesses as P.W.2 and 3. P.W.2 who is one of the worker under the respondent No.1 and 2 stated that, the

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deceased Maruti is the son of petitioner No.1, he and deceased Maruti was working under the respondent No.1 and 2, he and deceased Maruti went for their livelihood to Karwar, they are working under the respondents No.1 and 2 as loading and unloading the mud in the vehicle. The deceased Maruti was working from 2 ½ months under the respondents No.1 and 2 as a Hamal and as per the instructions of the respondent No.1 he along with other co-workers went to mud quarry work, at about 4.30 pm at the time of mud quarry work, the mud was fell down on the Maruti. Thereafter, with the help of respondent No.1 and other co-workers, removed the mud which is fell upon the Maruti and he was shifted to Hospital for further treatment. But he was died while he was treating. The accident was occurred during the course of his employment. Further P.W.3 has also stated in the similar version to the P.W.2. The evidences of P.W.2 and 3 are helpful to the case of the petitioners.

15. The P.W.1 has produced certain documents i.e., Ex.P1 is the complaint, Ex.P2 is the postal receipts. Ex.P3 is the tippani, Ex.P4 is the copy of FIR, Ex.P5 is the death

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certificate of Maruti, Ex.P6 is the acknowledgment, Ex.P7 is the certified copy of FIR, Ex.P8 is the certified copy of the complaint, Ex.P9 is the certified copy spot panchanama, Ex.P10 is the wound certificate, Ex.P11 is the study and caste certificate of petitioner No.1. From these documents it shows that, the case was filed against the respondent No.2.

- 11. On the contrary, the official of respondent No.3, who has got examined himself as R.W.1 in this case has denied of the above said facts in his affidavit of his chiefexamination inclusive of there being no relationship of employer/employee in between the above said deceased Maruti and respondent No.2.
- 12. On going through the above said rival contentions urged by the parties, it is seen that respondent No.3 has seriously disputed about the relationship of the deceased Maruti and respondent No.2 as employer/employee as deposed by R.W.1 in his chief-examination. The respondent No.3 even though he has disputed the relationship, he has suggested to the witness and has admitted like this;

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ನ್ನನ ಮಗ ಅರುಣ ಬಾಂದೕಕರವರ ಕಡೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದನು ಎಂದರೆ ಸರಿ. ಎರಡನೇ ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಯವರು ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಮಡ್ಡದ ಕಾಂಟ್ರಾಕ್ಟ್ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು ಎಂದರೆ ಸರಿ. ಮಣ್ಣು ಅಗೆಯುವ ಕೆಸಲಕ್ಕೆ ನನ್ನ ಮಗ ಇದ್ದನೆಂದು ಹೇಳುವುದು ಸರಿ. ಟಿಪ್ಪರ್ ಮಾಲಿಕರ ಹೆಸರು ಸುಂದರಜಿ ಕಾರ್ ಎರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅಪಘಾತವಾದಾಗ ನನ್ನ ಮಗ ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಗುಡ್ಡೆ ಅಗೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದನು ಎನ್ಡುವುದು ಸರಿ. ್ರತ್ರತಿವಾದಿಯವರು ದಿನಾಂಕಃ 17.12.2003 ರಂದು ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 8.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಮಣ್ಣು ಅಗೆಯಲು ಕರೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಿದ್ದರು ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಸರಿ. ಆವೋತ್ತಿನ ದಿವಸ ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಗುಡ್ಡ ನೀರಿನಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿದೆ ಅಗೆಯಲಿಕ್ಕೆ ಒಲ್ಲೆ ಎಂದು ಎರಡನೇ ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಯವರಿಗೆ ಹೇಳಿದನು ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಸರಿ. ಎರಡನೇಯ ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಯು ಏನಾದರೂ ಆದರೆ ನಾನಿದ್ದೇನೆ ಅಗಿ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಸರಿ. ಎರಡನೇ ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಯವರ ಹೇಳಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಗುಡ್ಡೆಯನ್ನು ನನ್ನ ಮಗ ಅಗೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಎಂದರೆ ಸರಿ. ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಗುಡ್ಡ ಕುಸಿದು ನನ್ನ ಮಗನ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಿದ್ದು ಅದರಿಂದ ಮಣ್ಣಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಚ್ಚಿಹೋದನು ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಸರಿ. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಕೆಲಸಗಾರರು ಸೇರಿ ನನ್ನ ಮಗನನ್ನು ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಬಾಂದೇಕರರವರು ಗುಡ್ಡೆಯಿಂದ ತೆಗೆದರು. ಅರುಣ ಕರೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಿ ಅವರೇ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎನ್ಷುವುದು ಸರಿ.

ನನ್ನ ಮಗನಿಗೆ ದಿನಗೂಲಿ ಪಗಾರ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಎರಡನೇ ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಯವರು ದಿನಗೂಲಿ ಪಗಾರವನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು ಎಂದರೆ ಸರಿ. ನನ್ನ ಮಗನಿಗೆ ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ ಎರಡನೇ ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಯ್ರು/ಶೂ. 3,000/- ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು

- As admitted by respondent No.3 it shows that, he was working as a Hamal under the respondent No.1. prove the facts in question, the R.W.1 has not produced support of his defence. documents in respondent No.3 has admitted in his evidence the deceased Maruti was died while he was loading the mud. Further the respondents No.1 and 2 have not stepped into the witness box and not cross examined the witness and not established their case. From these it is crystal clear that, the son of the petitioner was died while he was working under the respondents No.1 and 2 and respondent No.3 even during the course of cross examination has admitted and also the petitioner has admitted that while loading and unloading the mud in the vehicle he died. Under the above such circumstances, the company is liable to pay the compensation.
- 21. The evidence of P.W.1 reveals that, his son Maruti was working under respondent No.1 and 2 getting salary of Rs.3,000/- per month. As rightly argued by the learned advocate for the respondent No.3, it is seen that P.W.1 has not substantiated his above evidence by part placing

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any scrap of documentary evidence in that respect as admitted by P.W.1. Thus, merely, on the above oral evidence of P.W.1, it cannot be held that the deceased was deriving the above said salary from respondent No.1 and 2.

Though P.W.1 has not produced any relevant material by 22. cogent evidence to the satisfaction of the Court to establish the exact quantum of income earned by the deceased Maruti per month, it does not mean that the deceased Maruti did not have any income out of the above said avocation. Further, P.W.1 has placed Exp11 to show that his deceased son Maruti was aged about 20 years at the time of the above said accident in question as admitted in his chief examination. Hence, in the absence of the documentary evidence to that effect, this Court being left with no other alternative has to rely upon the complaint marked at Ex.P8& Exp11 scool documents in this case, wherein, the age of the deceased Maruti is mentioned therein as 20 years at the time of the above said accident in question which fact has not been seriously disputed by either of the parties to this

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case. Hence, in view of the above said Ex.P8, it can be safely held that, the deceased Maruti was aged about 20 years at the time of the above said accident in question. Hence, on looking to the above said age of the deceased Maruti, it makes it clear that the deceased Maruti was doing the avocation of Hamal in the above said vehicle of respondent No.1 and 2 and was deriving some income out of that per month. But asper the act salary of the empolyee is 8000, Hence it is necessary take notional income at the rate of Rs.8,000/- per month.

Maurti was working as mechanic in the above said vehicle of respondent No.1 and 2 and has succumbed to death during the course of his employment in the accident taken place which arose out of and in the course of his employment and that he was aged about 19 years at the time of above said accident in question and was deriving a monthly salary of Rs.6,000/- p.m., I hold that P.W.1 is the father of the above said deceased Maruti and petitioner No.2 is the mother of the deceased they being the dependent upon the deceased Maruti are

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entitled to claim the compensation from the respondents.

- As per Sec. 4(1) (a) of the Employees Compensation Act, 24. 1923 where death results from the injury, an amount equal to 50% of the monthly wages of the deceased multiplied by the relevant factor is the amount of compensation payable to the Petitioner. In the instant case as the deceased Maruti was getting Rs.8,000/- per month as wages and upon taking 50% of the said wages, it comes to Rs.4,000/-. As per schedule IV of the E.C. Act 1923, the proper factor to the age of 20 years is 224. Therefore, the compensation amount payable to the Petitioner would be Rs.4,000 x 224 = Rs.8,96,000/-. In addition to the above said amount, the Petitioner would also be entitled for Rs.15,000/- towards the funeral expenses of the deceased Maruti as per Sec. 4(4) of E.C. Act, 1923. Thus, in all the Petitioners are entitled for total compensation of $\mathbf{Rs.911000/-}$ (Rs.8,96,000/- + Rs.15,000/-).
- 25. In so far as awarding of the interest is concerned, it would be useful to refer the decision's reported in

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- 2014 Karnataka MAC 338 (SC),
 (Saberabibi Yakubbhai Shaikh & others Vs. National Insurance Company Ltd., & Others)
- 2. 2014 ACJ 1581 (Karnatka) (Sannabasavaraja Vs. B.S. Pushpalatha & another)

In the above said decisions it has been held that,

"If employer commits default in paying the compensation amount, the employee or his dependent is entitled to interest from expiry of one month from the date of injury or death resulting from such accident till the date of its deposit."

Hence, based on the principles enunciated in the above said decisions, I am of the opinion that, the Petitioner is entitled for interest @ 12% from the expiry of one month from the date of the death till the date of the deposit of the compensation amount is concerned.

26. In so far, as the liability is concerned, it is seen that, the Respondent No.1 to 3 are the employer, owner and insurer of the offending vehicle bearing Reg.No.KA-30/1959. As could be seen from the documents it shows that, the Maruti was died while he was loading and unloading the mud in the quarry work in the offending

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respondent No.1 and 2 in view of which the said accident arose out of and in the course of his employment. Therefore, the respondents No.1 and 2, the respondents No.1 to 3 being the employer, owner and insurance company of the above said vehicle is liable to pay the above said compensation to the petitioners.

Accordingly, I answered issue No.1 and 2 partly in the affirmative and issue No.3 in the negative and issue No.4 and 5 in the affirmative.

28. **Issue No.6:-** In view of my findings on above issues, I proceed to pass the following:

ORDER

The petition filed by the Petitioners U/Sec.22 of the W.C. Act 1923 is partly allowed.

Petitioners are entitled for the compensation amount of Rs.911000//(Rupees Nine Lakhs eleven Thousand Only)
with 12% interest per annum from the expiry of one month from the date of the accident till

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the date of deposit of the compensation amount by the respondent No.1.

The Respondents No.1 to 3 are liable to pay the above said compensation amount to the Petitioners jointly and severally. The respondent No.1 and 2 being the owner the vehicle bearing Reg.No.KA-30/1959 is directed to deposit the entire above said compensation amount with interest in this Court within 2 months from the date of this Judgment.

The respondents No.1 and 2 indemnify the respondent No.3 to deposit the compensation amount.

deposit of said the above On compensation amount, the petitioner No.1 and 2 being the father and mother shall be entitled to 50% each of the compensation of 50% remaining amount and compensation amount shall be kept as F.D. in any of the Nationalized Bank of her choice for a period of two years with a liberty to withdraw the periodical interest accrued thereon from time to time.

Advocate Fee is fixed at Rs.500/-.

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Office is hereby directed to draw Award accordingly.

Office is hereby further directed to recover necessary Court Fee at the time of the release of the above said Awarded compensation amount in favour of the Petitioners.

(Dictated to the Stenographer, directly on the lap-top, corrected and signed by me, then pronounced in the Open court on this the 30th day of December 2019)

/(SREENIVASA)
Prl. Senior Civil Judge & CJM,
Gadag.

<u>ANNEXURE</u>

1. List of witnesses examined on behalf of Petitioner

P.W.1 - Hanumanthappa

2. List of documents marked on behalf of Petitioner:

Ex.P1 - Complaint

Ex.P2 - Postal receipts.

Ex.P3 – Tippani

Ex.P4 - Copy of FIR

Ex.P5 - Death certificate of Maruti

Ex.P6 – Acknowledgment

Ex.P7 - C/c of FIR

Ex.P8 - C/c. of complaint

Ex.P9 – C/c. spot panchanama

Ex.P10 - Wound certificate

Ex.P11 - Study & caste certificate of petitioner No.1.

3. List of witnesses examined on behalf of Respondents

R.W.1 - Mohan A. Cholachagudda

4. List of documents marked on behalf of Respondents

Nil

(Sreenivasa)

Prl. Senior Civil Judge & CJM., Gadag

and

Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation,

Gadag.

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