IN THE SPECIAL COURT FOR N.I.A CASES, ERNAKULAM.

PRESENT:-

Sri. S. Santhosh Kumar, B.Sc,LL.B., Judge, Special Court for NIA Cases. Thursday the 23rd day of March, 2017 / 2nd Chaithra 1938.

SESSIONS CASE No. 3/2015 NIA

R.C. 6/2013 /NIA/KOC (Crime No. 1288/2012 of Manjeri Police station)

Complainant:-

State represented by National Investigating Agency, Kochi.

By Sri. Arjun Ambalappatta (Public Prosecutor, NIA)

Accused:-

- Masidur Rahaman@ Muhammed Masuideen, aged 23/12, S/o. Muhammed Israil, House No. 114, Purbatalagachhi Sampurn, Talagachhi (PO), Harishchandrapur, Malda District, West Bengal, Pin-732 125.
- 2. Mojammel Hoque @ Mussammil Haque @ Bablu, aged 22/12, S/o. Md. Erfan Ali, House No. 109, Purbatalagachhi Sampurn, Talagachhi (PO), Harishchandrapur, Malda District, West Bengal, Pin-732 125.
- 3. Farman Ali, aged 21/12, S/o. Mrita Abdul Latib, House No. N0084, Purbatalagachhi Sampurn, Talagachhi (PO), Harishchandrapur, Malda District, West Bengal, Pin-732 125.
- Masud Alam @ Pintu, aged 20/12, S/o. Abdul Mohsen Talgachhi Village, Talagachhi (PO), Harishchandrapur, Malda District, West Bengal.
- Shish Muhammed, aged 24/12, S/o. Abdus Samad, H. No. 085, Purbatalagachhi Sampurn, Talagachhi (PO), Harishchandrapur, Malda District, West Bengal, Pin-732 125.
- Mojibur Rahaman @ Mujeeb Rahiman, aged 19/12, S/o. Abdul Halim, Kobaiyagram, Milangarh, Harishchandrapur, Malda District, West Bengal, Pin-732 125.

A1 by Adv. M/s. Mohammed Ansari.M.S. and

P.V. Abdu Manaf.

A2 to A6 by Adv. M/s. Samsudin.P. and Jithin Lukose.

Offence charged:-

U/s. 489 B, 489 C r/w Sec. 34 IPC.

Plea of the accused:-

Not guilty

Finding:-

A1 is found guilty u/s. 489B and 489C r/w 34 of IPC and A2 to A6 are found guilty u/s. 489C r/w 34 of IPC.

Sentence or Order:-

A1 is convicted and sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for 5 years and to pay a fine of ₹25000/-in default of payment of fine to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for 6 months for the offence punishable u/s. 489B of IPC and Rigorous Imprisonment for 3 years for the offence punishable u/s. 489C r/w 34 of IPC. A2 to A6 are convicted and sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for 3 years for the offence punishable u/s. 489C r/w 34 of IPC. Sentences of imprisonment of A1 shall run concurrently. Set off is allowed u/s. 428 CrPC.

Description of accused

SI. No	Name	Fathers Name	Religion	Occupation	Residence	Age
general .	Masidur Rahaman@ Muhammed Masuideen	Muhammed Israil	Muslim	Labourer	House No. 114, Purbatalagachhi Sampurn, Talagachhi (PO), Harishchandrapur, Malda District, West Bengal	23/12
2.	Mojammel Hoque @ Mussammil Haque @ Bablu	Md. Erfan Ali	Muslim	Labourer	House No. 109, Purbatalagachhi Sampurn, Talagachhi (PO), Harishchandrapur, Malda District, West Bengal	22/12
S WOY	Farman Ali	Mrita Abdul Latib	Muslim	Labourer	H. No. N0084, Purbatalagachhi Sampurn, Talagachhi (PO),	21/12

4.	Masud Alam @ Pintu	Abdul Mohsen	Muslim	Labourer	Harishchandrapur, Malda District, West Bengal Talgachhi Village, Talagachhi (PO), Harishchandrapur, Malda District, West Bengal.	20/12
5.	Shish Muhammed	Abdus Samad	Muslim	Labourer	H. No. No.085, Purbatalagachhi Sampurn, Talagachhi (PO), Harishchandrapur, Malda District, West Bengal	24/12
6.	Mojibur Rahaman @ Mujeeb Rahiman	Abdul Halim	Muslim	Labourer	Kobaiyagram, Milangarh, Harishchandrapur, Malda District, West Bengal	19/12

Date of

Occurrence	Complaint	Apprehension	Release on bail	Commitment/ Date of filing
17.09.2012	17.09.2012	17.09.2012 (A1 to A6)	29.12.2012 (A1 to A6)	30.06.2015

Commencement	Close of	Date of	Sentence /	Service of copy of judgment or finding on accused	Explanation
of trial	trial	Judgment	Order		for delay.
03.01.2017	08.03.2017	23.03.2017	23.03.2017	23.03.2017	No delay

This case having been come up for final hearing before me on 17.03.2017 in the presence of the learned Public Prosecutor and the learned counsels for the accused and the court on this day delivered the following:-

<u>Judgment</u>

This is a final report filed by the Inspector of Police, National Investigation Agency, Kochi against six accused alleging offences punishable under Sections 489B and 489C r/w 34 of the Indian Penal Code.

2. Prosecution case recapitulated is as follows:-

On 17.09.2012 at about 19.00 hours, one Masidur Rahaman @ Muhammed Masuideen, who is a native of Malda district in West Bengal went to INSAT mobile shop in Manjeri, Malappuram for purchasing mobile phone recharge coupon. He tendered Counterfeit Indian Currency Note (CICN) of the face value ₹1000/- for purchasing the recharge coupon. On examining the currency note the shop owner Shri. Aboobacker Sidhique felt suspicion about the genuineness of the note. He detained Masidur Rahaman and informed the police about the suspicious note tendered by A1. Upon receiving the information, the Sub Inspector of Police, Manjeri police station and his team reached the shop. CW1 produced the note of face value of ₹1000/- given to him by A1 before the SI. After examining the currency note, SI searched the body of A1 and found that he was in possession of 4 other CICNs of denomination of ₹1000/- and that all of them were counterfeit notes. Sub Inspector arrested the accused, seized the above 5 Counterfeit Indian currency Notes and prepared a seizure mahazar.

^{3.} Thereafter, A1 and seized Counterfeit Indian Currency Notes were

No.1288/12 under Section 489B and 489C of IPC against A1. On interrogation, A1 disclosed to the SI that he has kept some more counterfeit currency notes in the room where he was staying. At the instance of A1, SI took him to the house of Biriyumma at Mele Kozhiparambu, Thiruvali where A1 was staying with other accused. When the police party had reached the rented building, three persons, who were residing along with A1 ran away from there. A1 pointed out to the SI, the suitcase in which he had kept Counterfeit Indian Currency Notes. 45 more Counterfeit Notes of ₹1000/- denomination each were found in the suitcase. Those notes were seized by the SI by preparing a recovery mahazar.

4. On 17.09.2012 when the SI had reached the rented building of Biriyumma A2 to A6 were present there. The SI searched them in the presence of independent witnesses and recovered counterfeit currency notes from their possession as well. A2 was found in possession of 3 counterfeit currency notes of ₹1000/- denomination. A3 was found in possession of 4 counterfeit currency notes of ₹1000/- denomination. A4 was found in possession of 4 counterfeit currency notes of ₹1000/- denomination. A5 was found in possession of 5 counterfeit currency notes of ₹1000/- denomination and A6 was found in possession of 1 counterfeit currency notes of ₹1000/- denomination. All the counterfeit currency notes were seized by the SI and separate seizure mahazars

were prepared. All the accused were arrested by the SI and arraigned as A2 to A6 in the case and a report to that effect was filed before court.

- 5. Later the case was transferred to CBCID and they re-registered the case as crime No.1023/CR/OCW-III/PKD/2012 under Sections 489B and 489C r/w 34 of IPC. Considering the gravity of the offences National Investigation Agency took over the investigation and re-registered the case as RC 06/2013/NIA/KOC on 12.11.2013. CW29, Inspector of Police, National Investigation Agency, Kochi conducted the investigation and filed the final report.
- 6. On appearance of the accused all the relevant records were furnished to them. After a preliminary hearing and perusing the records a charge under Sections 489B, 489C r/w 34 of IPC was framed against A1 to A6, read over and explained to them in Hindi through a translator Advocate Smt.R.Rekha for which they pleaded not guilty. Thereafter, prosecution examined PWs 1 to 19, marked Exts.P1 to P31 and MO.1 to MO.9 series. On close of prosecution evidence accused were questioned under Section 313 Cr.P.C. so as to enable them personally explain about the incriminating circumstances appearing in evidence against them. They denied the allegations and maintained innocence. After hearing under Section 232 Cr.P.C they were called upon to enter their defence. DW1 and 2 were examined from the side of the defence and Ext.D1 was

Points for determination are:-

narked.

- 1) Whether the first accused used as genuine counterfeit currency notes of ₹1000/- as alleged by the prosecution and thereby committed offence punishable under Section 489B of IPC?
- 2) Whether A1 to A6 were found in possession of counterfeit currency notes of ₹1000/- as alleged by the prosecution and thereby committed offence punishable under Section 489C of IPC?
- 3) Whether they were allegedly acting in prosecution of common intention?
- 4) Sentence or order?
- 8. Point Nos.1 to 3:- For the sake of convenience these points are considered together. PW1 Aboobacker Sidheeque stated that he is conducting a mobile shop at Manjeri by name INSAT mobile and that on 17.9.2012 at 7 pm A1 Masidur Rahaman @ Muhammed Masuideen came to his shop and demanded Vodafone recharge coupon for ₹100/- by paying a currency note of ₹1000/-. He became doubtful about the currency note since there was difference in the paper quality and water mark and so he showed it to Firoz who after examination told that it is not original. Beerankutty who is the adjacent shop owner also came there and after examining the currency he also opined that it is not original. It was noticed that A1 who handed over the currency became perplexed and attempted to ran away. After asking Firoz to watch A1 who was asked to sit in a chair he showed the currency to Faizal Babu who is a staff of the shop and he also opined that it is a fake currency

note.

- 9. Thereafter, he informed the matter to Manjeri police station over phone and at 7.30 pm Sub Inspector and party came there and the currency note was handed over to him and the person who tendered the currency was also shown to him. Sub Inspector after examining the currency opined that it is a fake currency note and thereafter he searched the body of A1 and four similar currency notes of ₹1000/- were obtained from his shirt pocket and after examining it was also found to be fake. The Sub Inspector asked his name in Hindi and it was told that he is Muhammed Masuideen who is a native of West Bengal. Sub Inspector arrested him and prepared a mahazar. The note which was tendered by A1 was starting in 9BT and ending in 153 and it is MO.1. MO.2 series are the four currency notes seized by Sub Inspector from the pocket of A1.
- 10. PW2 Firoz stated that on 17.9.2012 at 7 pm while he was talking to PW1 at his shop A1 came there and demanded a Vodafone coupon of ₹100/- after tendering a currency note of ₹1000/-. On getting suspicion PW1 showed the same and there was difference in quality and so it was inspected by Beerankutty and Faizal, who also opined that it is fake. The person who tendered the note became perplexed and tried to go back. After making him to sit in a chair PW1 informed the matter to the police station over phone and after 10 15 minutes Sub Inspector and party came there and the note was handed over to Sub Inspector. After

inspecting the currency Sub Inspector opined that it is a fake note and thereafter Sub Inspector seized four such currency notes from his shirt pocket and informed that they are also fake currency notes. Sub Inspector arrested him and the notes were seized as per a mahazar, MO.1 was the first note handed over to PW1 and MO.2 series are the currency notes seized by the Sub Inspector and Ext.P1 is the mahazar prepared by Sub Inspector. He identified A1 before court.

- 11. PW3 Anas stated that on 17.9.2012 at 7.30 pm police party came to the shop of PW1 and PW1 handed over ₹1000/- currency note to the Sub Inspector. A1 was sitting in a chair in the shop. After inspecting the currency note Sub Inspector gave it to him and it was a fake note. Thereafter, Sub Inspector seized four such currency notes from the pocket of A1 and on examining it was also found to be fake currency note. Sub Inspector arrested the first accused and seized the currency note as per Ext.P1 mahazar. MO.1 is the currency note handed over to the Sub Inspector by PW1 and MO.2 series are the currency notes seized by Sub Inspector from the pocket of A1. He identified A1 before court.
- 12. PW4 Yousef stated that police prepared Ext.P2 scene mahazar with respect to INSAT mobile shop belonging to PW1 Aboobacker Sideeque.
- 13. PW5 Dineshan stated that during 2012 he was working as Branch Manager at State Bank of India, Manjeri and that on 17.9.2012 at 8.30 pm Manjeri police came to the bank and asked opinion about the

genuineness showing five 1000/- rupee currency notes. After inspecting the same, he informed that they are fake notes. MO.1 and MO.2 series are the notes shown by the Sub Inspector.

14. PW6 Noushad stated that on 17.9.2012 at 9.25 pm police came to the building in which he is conducting a fast food shop in the ground floor and that A1 who is a native of Bengal and who is residing in the first floor came out of the jeep. Three persons who are staying along with A1 who are natives of Bengal ran away from the place and that A1 along with police party went to a room in which there were five other Bengalis. On seeing the police party they tried to ran away and the police prevented them. A1 opened a black colour suit/case and showed two bundles of currency notes. The first bundle contained fresh currency notes of ₹1000/- denomination and the second bundle contained old currency notes of various denominations and that A1 took both bundles and gave it to the Sub Inspector. The first bundle contained 45 currency notes of ₹1000/- denomination and the second bundle contained about ₹20,000/-.

which are fake notes and the other bundle contained genuine currency notes. At told that the genuine currency notes were obtained after exchanging fake currency notes and the Sub Inspector seized the currency notes as per Ext.P3 mahazar. Thereafter, Sub Inspector searched the body of one Haque and seized 3000/- rupee fake currency

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notes as per Ext.P4 mahazar and MO.4 series are the three currency notes. Thereafter, Sub Inspector searched the body of Farman Ali and seized 4000/- rupee currency notes as per Ext.P5 mahazar and MO.5 series are the said four currency notes. Thereafter, Sub Inspector searched the body of Pintu and seized 4000/- rupee currency notes as per Ext.P6 mahazar and the four currency notes are MO.6 series. Thereafter, Sub Inspector searched the body of Shish and seized 5000/rupee currency notes as per Ext.P7 mahazar and the five currency notes are MO.7 series. Thereafter, Sub Inspector searched the body of Mojibur Rahaman and seized 1000/- rupee currency note as per Ext.P8 mahazar and the currency note is MO.8 and that A2 to A6 were arrested from the spot. On the next day Sub Inspector prepared Ext.P9 mahazar and he along with Alavikutty are signatories in Exts.P3 to P9. During reexamination he stated that there was electric light in the room.

16. PW7 Krishnan Nambissan stated that he is working as a Home Guard at Manjeri police station and that on 17.9.2012 at 8.15 pm he was called urgently to Manjeri Police station and that he reached at 8.45 pm. The Sub Inspector brought A1 with fake currency notes and requested him to translate to his language. The person in Hindi informed that he had kept more currency notes of ₹1000/- denomination in a room at Kozhiparambu and that if he is taken there he will show the place where the currency is kept. Sub Inspector along with first accused and others including him went to the place and stopped the jeep in front of a shop

and on seeing the police jeep 2 – 3 persons ran away. Accused showed the room in the first floor and there were five persons inside the room. A1 showed a suit case and after opening it he gave 1000/- rupee bundle of currency notes and other bundle containing ₹20,970/- to the Sub Inspector and informed that it was the amount obtained after exchange. He translated the statements and the Sub Inspector seized the bundles as per a mahazar. The Sub Inspector conducted search on all the five persons who were in the room and seized currency notes of denomination of ₹1000/- to the tune of 3, 4, 4, 5 and 1 respectively from A2 to A6 and that they were arrested by Sub Inspector. There was electric light inside the room and the verandah.

Kozhiparambu containing 8 rooms available for rent and that one room in the ground floor was given on rent to Noushad for conducting a shop. The room just above the shop of Noushad was given on rent to A1 and A2 during 2012 at a monthly rent of ₹700/-. The adjacent room was given for preparing food and that A3 to A6 were also residing in the room along with A1 and A2. The accused were residing there for about six months prior to the seizure of fake currency notes. The building is electrified and she is paying the current charge. During re-examination she stated that about 19 years back her husband died and thereafter she obtained the

PW9 Moideenkutty stated that during 2012 August he had

entrusted CW14 Karuppuswamy for supplying labourers for the construction of Salafiya Arabic college at Vandoor. He had not given ₹1000/- currency note as wages and that he was giving currency notes of denomination of ₹500/-, ₹100/- and ₹50/- as wages and that the maximum wage per day is ₹600/-.

- 19. PW10 Karuppuswamy stated that during 2012 as per the request of PW9 Moideenkutty he had arranged labourers for the construction of Salafiya College, Vandoor. During 2012 August plastering work was going on and the wage for mason was ₹700/- and the wage for others was ₹500/-. He had not issued fresh notes of ₹1000/- and that Inshan Ali, A1 Mohammed, A2 Bablu, A6 Mujeeb and other accused were doing the work and that they were residing in a quarter at Kozhiparambu.
- 20. PW11 Premanandan stated that during 2015 he was the Secretary of Thiruvali Grama Panchayath and he had issued Ext.P10 ownership certificate by which the owner of building No.XI/335 was Parakkadan Biriyumma and others. On that day he had prepared Ext.P11 plan and handed over to the Investigating Officer.
- 21. PW12 Muhammed Ali stated that during 2013 February he was working as Village Officer, Manjeri and that he had issued Ext.P12 scene plan prepared by Village Assistant Bijumon in his presence.
- 22. PW13 Ramakrishnan stated that on 26.3.2014 while he was working as Secretary, Manjeri municipality he had issued Ext.P13 ownership certificate and occupancy certificate with respect to building

No.20/22 and that the trade license was in the name of Aboobacker Siddique and license was issued for mobile sales and services and sale of electronic goods. During re-examination he stated that no separate license is required for selling recharge coupon.

- 23. PW14 Rajeev M.S stated that on 17.9.2012 while he was working as Sub Inspector of Police, Manjeri at 7.15 pm he got a telephone message that one Hindi speaking person had tendered a fake currency note for purchase of 100/- rupee recharge coupon and that he was detained at the shop. He along with police party reached there at 7.30 p.m and PW1 handed over the currency note. The person who tendered the note was sitting in a chair. On examination of the currency note it was found that the water mark and picture of Gandhiji had no clarity and that there was difference in the security thread. There was also difference in the paper quality. The person who tendered the currency told him that he is Mohammed Masuideen from Malda district, West Bengal.
- 24. On his body search 4 such currency notes of ₹1000/denomination were seized from the shirt pocket and it was also found to be fake notes. He was arrested and the inspection memo is Ext.P14 and the currency notes were seized as per Ext.P1 mahazar. He along with the accused and the material objects went to SBI Manjeri branch and PW5 branch manager informed that they are fake currency notes. He reached the police station and registered the case as crime No.1288/2012 under

Section 489 B and 489 C as per Ext.P15 FIR and that MO.1 and MO.2 series are the currency notes seized from A1. He identified A1 before court. With the help of PW7 he questioned the accused and recorded Ext.P16 confession statement.

25. They along with the accused went to Kozhiparambu and A1 showed a room on the first floor of the building and A2 to A6 were in the room. A1 showed a suit case from which he took out two bundles of currency notes. The first one was 45 numbers of fake currency notes of ₹1000/- and the second bundle contains ₹20,970/- in which there were currency notes of various denomination and it was informed that it was obtained by exchanging fake currency notes. He seized the articles MO.3 series as per Ext.P3 mahazar and MO.9 series ₹14,970/- where the amount available in the second bundle (excluding currency notes of denomination of ₹1000/- and ₹500/-). Thereafter, he searched five persons who were detained in the room and seized MO.4 series currency notes as per Ext.P4 mahazar from A2, seized MO.5 series currency notes as per Ext.P5 series from A3, seized MO.6 series currency notes as per Ext.P6 series from A4, seized MO.7 series currency notes as per Ext.P7 series from A5 and seized MO.8 currency note as per Ext.P8 from A6. A2 to A6 were arrested after preparing inspection and arrest memos and took them to the police station. At 12 O'clock in the noon he prepared Ext.P9 scene mahazar and filed Ext.P17 report to incorporate Section 34 of IPC and filed Ext.P18 report showing the names and addresses of the

accused. Ext.P19 series are the carbon copies of arrest memos and Ext.P20 series are the carbon copies of inspection memos with respect to A2 to A6. He identified A2 to A6 before court.

26. PW15 K.P.Sulaika stated that while she was working as Assistant Director, Documents at RFSL, Thrissur she examined 67 numbers 1000/-rupee currency notes forwarded from JFCM, Manjeri as per Ext.P22 forwarding note and issued Ext.P21 certificate on 29.7.2013. The currency notes examined were MO.1 to MO.8 and that all the 67 notes were counterfeit currency notes.

27. PW16 Kausik Paul stated that during 3.12.2015 he was working as Block Development Officer, Harichandrapur II, Malda, West Bengal and that he had issued Ext.P23 series certificates with respect to A1 to A6 that they are permanent residents of Harichandrapur II, Malda, West Bengal.

28. PW17 A.Ramesh Reddy stated that on 12.11.2013 while he was working as SP, NIA Kochi as per the order of MHA he registered the case as NIA FIR No.6/2013 for offences under Sections 489 B and 489 C r/w 34 of IPC as per Ext.P24 FIR and Ext.P24(a) is the copy of order of MHA and he directed Mr.Biju John Lukose to conduct investigation.

29. PW18 Abdul Basheer stated that he conducted the investigation of this case from 8.1.2013, prepared Ext.P2 scene mahazar on 17.1.2013 and recorded the statement of witnesses. On 19.1.2013 he filed Ext.P25 report to correct the direction in Ext.P9 mahazar and filed Ext.P26 report

to correct the time of occurrence in the FIR and seized articles produced by CW12 Abdul Majeed as per Ext.P27 mahazar. He produced Ext.P12 plan prepared by PW12 as per Ext.P28 covering letter and filed Ext.P29 forwarding note to forward the articles for examination.

30. PW19 Biju John Lukose stated that while he was working as Inspector of Police, NIA he conducted the investigation in this case and filed Ext.P30 forwarding note to send the MOs to SPMCIL Nasik and obtained Ext.P31 report which showed that the MOs were high quality counterfeit notes. He procured Ext.P23 series residential certificates of A1 to A6 and produced Ext.P10 ownership certificate, P11 sketch, P13 certificate and on completion of investigation filed the charge sheet on 20.6.2015. If a counterfeit currency note of ₹1000/- denomination is transacted for 10 times per day the damage caused to the economy for one year will be ₹36 lakhs.

31. DW1 Madai Basheer is conducting a hotel at Kuttipara in Manjeri by name Family Hotel and Fast Food. Accused were residing in a rented room on the top of the hotel. He sublet the room to the accused during end of January 2012. He collected rent from February onwards. There is no rent deed. They resided there for about one month and thereafter they were missing. After about 5 – 6 months they contacted him over phone and informed that they were taken custody by the police. He can identify A6 Mujeeb Rahman, A3 Farman and A2 Muzhammil by name.

32. DW2 is the present Secretary of Manjeri municipality. She

produced the records as requested in the summons. The copy of extract of building tax register showing room numbers 569, 570, 571 and 572 in ward No.20 is marked as Ext.D1. It is a single storied building and on enquiry it was revealed that the first floor was constructed during 2014. They demanded to regularize the construction.

33. The substance of the evidence is discussed above. The offence alleged against the accused are punishable under Sections 489B, 489C r/w 34 of the Indian Penal Code. The gist of prosecution case is as follows:-

PW1 Aboobacker Siddique is conducting a mobile shop by name INSAT mobiles at Manjeri town. On 17.9.2012 at 7 pm A1 Masidurahman
@ Mohammed Masuideen visited the shop and requested for a Vodafone recharge coupon of ₹100/- tendering a 1000/- rupee note. PW1 got suspicion about the currency note since there was difference in paper quality and colour of water mark. He showed the same to PW2 Firoz and he after examination informed that it is not original. The note was shown to CW5 Veerankutty who also opined that is not a genuine currency note. By this time A1 got perplexed and attempted to escape by running. PW1 asked PW2 Firoz to take care of the accused. PW2 made him to sit in a chair. CW4 Faisal Babu who is a staff of the shop also opined that it is not a genuine currency after inspection and so PW1 informed the matter to the Sub Inspector of Police, Manjeri. At about 7.30 pm PW14 M.S.Rajeev who was the Sub Inspector of Police, Manjeri reached the shop. MO.1

currency note which was tendered by A1 was shown to PW14. He also opined that it is a fake currency after inspection. SI searched the shirt pocket of A1 from where he seized four similar currency notes of 1000/denomination. On inspection it was also found to be fake notes. The Sub Inspector seized the said currency notes which are marked as MO.1 and MO.2 series as per Ext.P1 mahazar. He arrested the accused and proceeded to the police station. On the way he contacted PW5 N.G.Dineshan who is the branch manager of State Bank of India, Manjeri branch. After examining MO.1 and MO.2 series, PW5 also opined that they are fake currency notes.

34. PW14 registered the case as crime No.1288/2012 as per Ext.P15 FIR. Since A1 was a native of Bengal he obtained the presence of PW7 Krishnan Nambisan who is a retired army man and who is working as Home Guard at Manjeri police station. The confession statement of A1 which is marked as Ext.P16 (only relevant portion) was recorded and on the basis of the same they proceeded to Kozhiparamba and reached the two storied building owned by PW8 Biriyumma. On seeing the police party PW6 Noushad who is conducting a tea shop on the ground floor of the building and CW9 Alavikutty followed the police party. A1 went to the first floor and opened the door of a room on the eastern corner. A2 to A6 who were present in the room made an attempt to escape. But they were prevented by the Sub Inspector and he directed the police party to detain them. A1 opened a suit case and produced two bundles of currency

notes. The first bundle contained 45 counterfeit currency notes of ₹1000/- denomination and the second bundle contained genuine currency notes worth ₹20,970/-. A1 confessed that those genuine notes were procured after exchanging the counterfeit currency notes.

35. The Sub Inspector seized the said currency notes as per Ext.P3 seizure mahazar. Thereafter, he searched the body of A2 to A6 and seized fake Indian currency notes from them. As per Ext.P4 mahazar three fake currency notes were seized from A2, as per Ext.P5 mahazar four fake currency notes were seized from A3, as per Ext.P6 mahazar four fake currency notes were seized from A4, as per Ext.P7 mahazar five fake currency notes were seized from A5 and as per Ext.P8 mahazar one fake currency notes were seized from A6. A2 to A6 were arrested by the Sub Inspector after preparing Ext.P19 series arrest memos and Ext.P20 series inspection memos. Later the investigation was taken over by the CBCID and PW18 conducted further investigation. Considering the gravity of the offence, the case was taken over by the NIA as per the order of the Ministry of Home Affairs, re-registered the case as RC 6/2013/NIA/KOC and on completion of investigation PW19 laid the final report before court. PWs1 to 19 were examined, Exts.P1 to P31 were marked and MO.1 to MO.9 series were marked on the side of the prosecution. DWs1 and 2 were examined from the side of the defence and Ext.D1 was marked. Relying upon the evidence tendered by the prosecution the learned Public Prosecutor pointed out that the offence is proved according to law

and so the accused are liable for conviction. He pointed out that circulation of fake currency is a menace to the Indian economy and so it is to be dealt with by imposing adequate punishment. In support of his contentions he filed an argument note. Per contra the learned counsel appearing for A1 pointed out that there are contradictions crept in the evidence of prosecution witnesses. Though the time of occurrence is at 7 pm, PW14 stated that he left the police station after recording the matter in the GD entry. As per Ext.P15 FIR the time in the GD entry is noted as 20.50 hours. It was also pointed out that though PW1 narrated the incident to PW14 the FIS is not seen recorded and the case was registered suo moto by PW14. It was also pointed out that there is contradiction in the evidence of PW7 Krishnan Nambisan. According to him, when the police party reached the building at Kozhiparamba three persons ran away from the staircase and the Sub Inspector chased them for about 15 minutes. But PW6 and PW14 had no such case.

36. The learned counsel appearing for A2 to A6 pointed out that the evidence tendered by PW6 is not believable. His presence at the place and at the time is doubtful. The evidence of PW7 is contradictory. Though PW8 Biriyumma stated that she was the owner of the building, the document produced is that of 2015 and the document with respect to 2012 is not seen produced. It was also pointed out that the number of MO.2 series currency notes is not mentioned in the FIR. Though the search at the premises at Kozhiparamba was conducted during night,

PW14 has not prepared search memorandum. It was also pointed out that prosecution could not prove that the accused had knowledge that the currency notes were counterfeit. In such circumstances the accused are entitled for an acquittal. In support of his contentions the learned counsel appearing for A2 to A6 filed a detailed argument note in which the ruling of

Hon'ble Supreme Court reported in AIR 1964 SC 1184
(Haricharan Kurmi v. State of Bihar), the ruling of the
Hon'ble High Court reported in 2002 (3) KLT Short
Note Case No.68 (Kuttan Nadar v. State) and 2016 (4)
KLT 613 (Sukumaran v. Sub Inspector of Police)

were relied upon.

37. The fact that MO.1 and MO.2 series currency notes were seized from A1, MO.3 series currency notes were seized on the basis of the confession statement of A1, MO.4 series, MO.5 series, MO.6 series, MO.7 series and MO.8 were seized from A2 to A6 were high quality CICN is not in dispute since it is proved by the oral evidence of PW15 coupled with Ext.P21 certificate and Ext.P31 report. PW15 was working as Assistant Director documents at Regional Forensic Science laboratory, Thrissur. All the 67 counterfeit currency notes were forwarded to Regional Forensic Science laboratory, Thrissur. PW15 examined the currency notes and issued Ext.P21 certificate. As per Ext.P21 the questioned items stamped and marked Q1 to Q67 are counterfeit currency notes. Similarly, all the

67 currency notes were sent to currency note press Nasik and Ext.P31 report was obtained. As per Ext.P31 report the referred suspected notes of ₹1000/- denomination are high quality counterfeit currency notes.

38. As discussed earlier, the first incident happened on 17.9.2012 at 7 pm at the shop of PW1. PW1 and PW2 narrated the incident which happened at the shop. A1 demanded Vodafone recharge coupon worth ₹100/- after tendering a 1000/- rupee currency note which was found fake on inspection. PW3 Anas stated that he had seen PW14 Sub Inspector searching the body of A1. He is an attester to Ext.P1 seizure mahazar and he has identified MO.1 and MO.2 series. He identified A1 before court. The evidence of PW5 Dinesan who was the branch manager of State Bank of India, Manjeri shows that Sub Inspector met him at 8.30 pm on 17.9.2012 and showed 5000/- rupee currency notes (MO.1 and MO.2 series). On examination it was found fake currency notes. PW5 stated that from 1991 onwards he is working in the bank and so his competency to identify fake currency notes cannot be disputed. The evidence of PW13 who was working as Municipal Secretary coupled with Ext.13 certificate shows that PW1 is having trade license for conducting mobile sales and services shop having number 20/22 in Manjeri municipality. So the tendering of MO.1 currency notes by A1 before PW1 and the seizure of MO.2 series currency notes from the possession of A1 by PW14 Sub Inspector is proved beyond reasonable doubt.

39. As per the prosecution case, the second incident happened at

Kozhiparamba at about 9.30 pm on the same day. A1 was arrested by PW14 and with MO.1 and MO.2 series he was taken to the police station. Crime was registered as per Ext.P15 FIR. Confession statement of A1 was recorded and the relevant portion is marked as Ext.P16. A1 confessed that he has kept more 1000/- rupee currency notes at a room in Kozhiparamba and that if he is taken there he will show it. Accordingly, PW14 and police party including PW7, the Hindi knowing retired army personal who was working as Home Guard, led by A1 reached at Kozhiparamba. On seeing the police party PW6 Noushad and CW9 Alavikutty followed them. PW6 Noushad is conducting a shop in the ground floor of the building. When they reached near the building, three persons from the building ran away. A1 showed a box and took out two bundles of currency notes. MO.3 series are 45 numbers of CICN of 1000/rupee denomination each. MO.9 series are genuine currency notes of different denominations which was kept separately. A1 informed that the currency notes were obtained after exchanging the counterfeit currency notes. MO.3 series counterfeit currency notes were kept in a separate bundle and MO.9 series genuine currency notes were kept in another bundle. MO.3 series are 45 numbers of counterfeit currency notes of 1000/- denomination and MO.9 series are ₹14,970/- (excluding currency notes of ₹1000/- and ₹500/- denomination) of different denomination. After recovery of MO.3 series and MO.9 series, PW14 searched the body of A2 to A6. From A2 he seized three numbers of counterfeit currency notes (MO.4 series) as per Ext.P4 mahazar. 4 numbers from A3 (MO.5 series) as per Ext.P5 mahazar. 4 numbers from A4 (MO.6 series) as per Ext.P6 mahazar. 5 numbers from A5 (MO.7 series) as per Ext.P7 mahazar and one number from A6 (MO.8) as per Ext.P8 mahazar. PW6 Noushad and CW9 Alavikutty are the signatories in the seizure mahazars. The evidence of PW8 Biriyumma shows that she is the owner of building No.XI/335 and she gave the first floor on rent to A1 and A2. She also stated that A1 to A6 used to stay in the room. The evidence of PW11 Premanandan who was the Secretary of Thiruwali Panchayat coupled with Ext.P10 shows that the building in question was owned by PW8 and others. In cross examination PW11 stated that during 2012 September onwards they are owners. So the oral evidence of PW8 coupled with Ext.P10 shows that Biriyumma was the owner of the building. She has stated that A1 to A6 were residing in the room along with others.

- 40. PW10 Karuppuswamy was examined to show that he used to engage the accused for mason work. During that period construction of Salafi Arabic college was going on. PW9 Moideenkutty engaged PW10 for supply of labourers. The evidence of PW9 and PW10 shows that the wage per day of mason is ₹700/- and others is ₹500/-. According to PW9 and PW10 they never paid 1000/- rupee currency notes to the accused.
- 41. The oral evidence of PW1, PW2, PW3 and PW14 shows that they had seen A1 in possession of counterfeit currency notes on 17.9.2012 at 7 pm. PW1 and PW2 stated that A1 requested for a Vodafone recharge

coupon of ₹100/- by tendering MO.1 currency note. It is to be noted that though A1 is having a Tata Docomo connection purposefully he demanded a Vodafone recharge coupon. It was for not tracing him later. Suppose if he purchased a Tata Docomo coupon, he can be easily traced out if MO.1 currency note was later found to be a fake note. So it is clear that from the evidence of PW1, PW2, PW3 and PW14, A1 was found in possession of counterfeit currency notes and that he tendered the same as genuine currency notes. Regarding the second event which happened at Kozhiparamba the oral evidence of PW6, PW7 and PW14 are available. As discussed earlier, PW6 Noushad was conducting a tea shop on the ground floor of the building where the accused were staying. PW6 and PW7 are witnesses to the recovery at the instance of A1 and also the seizure from the possession of A2 to A6. PW14 is the Sub Inspector who effected the recovery on the basis of Ext.P16 confession statement from A1 and effected recovery from A2 to A6. It was argued by the learned counsel appearing for the accused that there is a contradiction in the evidence of PW7 Krishnan Nambisan. PW7 is a retired Army personal and during 2012 he was working as Home Guard at Manjeri police station. His help was sought as a translator since he knows Hindi. According to PW7 when they reached near the ground floor of the building three persons ran away and PW14 Sub Inspector chased them for about 15 minutes. However, PW6 and PW14 had no such case. It is to be remembered that the incident occurred during 2012 and PW7 was examined before court

on 4.1.2017. He frankly admitted that he could not remember A2 to A6. However, he stated that fake currency notes of denomination of 1000/-rupee were recovered from A2 to A6. He also admitted that he could not remember the complete details. Though there was a contradiction regarding the chasing of accused who ran away, it cannot be held that it is a material contradiction. As held by the

Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2013 (4) KLT SN 16 (C.No.14) (Gangabhavani v. Rayapati Venkat Reddy) Criminal Trial - Evidence Act, 1872 - Minor contradictions in deposition of witnesses - Can be ignored.

In case there are minor contradictions in the depositions of the witnesses the same are bound to be ignored as the same cannot be dubbed as improvements and it is likely to be so as the statement in the court is recorded after an inordinate delay. In case the contradictions are so material that the same go to the root of the case, materially affect the trial or core of the prosecution case, the court has to form its opinion about the credibility of the witnesses and find out as to whether their depositions inspire confidence.

^{42.} It was argued by the learned counsel appearing for A1 that

though the time of occurrence is at 7 pm and the evidence of PW14 shows that he went to the place after making GD entry, as per Ext.P15 FIR, the time of occurrence is shown as 20.50 hours. It was clarified by the witness that 20.50 hours is the time when the FIR was prepared and it was not the time when the information was received at the police station. It was argued that in Ext.P15 FIS the number of only MO.1 note is mentioned and the number of MO.2 series are not mentioned. It is noticed that in Ext.P1 seizure mahazar which was prepared on 17.9.2012 at 19.15 hours all the serial numbers of MO.1 and MO.2 series are mentioned. Ext.P15 FIR was registered on 17.9.2012 at 20.50 hours. In Ext.P15 the serial number of MO.1 is mentioned and it is mentioned that four other fake currency notes were also seized from his shirt pocket. So the non-mentioning of serial numbers of MO.2 series in Ext.P15 FIR is not fatal to the prosecution case.

43. It was contended by the learned counsel appearing for A2 to A6 in the argument note that though the search was conducted during night PW14 Sub Inspector has not prepared a search memorandum and sent it to court. It is to be remembered that police party reached the building at Kozhiparamba on the basis of the information given by A1 regarding the concealment of fake currency notes. It was A1 who led the party to the room. Incidentally it was noticed that A2 to A6 were also residing in the room. So it may not be possible to prepare a search memorandum since PW14 had no knowledge about the room where A1 was leading them.

Moreover, as held by the

Hon'ble Supreme Court in AIR 1980 SC 593 (State of Maharashtra v. Netwarlal Damodardas Soni). Even if search is illegal, it will not vitiate the seizure and further investigation.

Here there is ample evidence regarding the seizure of fake currency notes from the possession of A2 to A6.

44. Relying upon the ruling of the

Hon'ble High Court reported in 2016 (4) KLT 613 (Sukumaran v. Sub Inspector of Police) it was pointed out that mere possession of counterfeit currency notes in the absence of such requisite mens rea, is not sufficient to make out a case under Section 489B or Section 489C.

Here in this case there is overwhelming evidence to show that the accused had knowledge regarding the fake currency notes. First of all it is to be noted that A1 tendered MO.1 currency note and demanded a Vodafone recharge coupon though he had a Docomo connection. As rightly pointed out by the learned Public Prosecutor if he purchased a Docomo recharge coupon, later if it is found that it is a fake currency note he can easily be traced. So he purposefully demanded a Vodafone recharge coupon. Further A1 was found in possession of only fake currency notes. Similarly, A2 to A6 were also found in possession of only

genuine currency notes at the time of tendering the same the shop keepers will demand for change. To avoid such a contingency they were only having fake currency notes. Further, at the time of recovery it was noticed that MO.3 series 45 numbers of fake currency notes were kept in a separate bundle and MO.9 series original currency notes were kept in a separate bundle. It is an indication that accused had knowledge regarding the fake currency notes and genuine currency notes.

45. It was argued by the learned counsel appearing for A2 to A6 that the prosecution could not prove the common intention. As held by the

Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2013 (2) KLT SN 52 (Case No.60) Syed Yousuf Hussain v. State of Andhra Pradesh) Penal Code, 1860, S.34 - It is always not necessary that every accused must do a separate act to be responsible for ultimate criminal act.

Both the accused were charged for substantive offences in aid of S.34 IPC. S.34 IPC is intended to cover a situation wherein the accused persons have done something with common intention to constitute a criminal act. To get S.34 attracted, certain conditions precedent are to be satisfied. The act must have been done by more than one person and

they must have shared a common intention either by omission or commission in effectuating the crime. It is always not necessary that every accused must do a separate act to be responsible for the ultimate criminal act. What is required is that an accused person must share the common intention to commit the act.

As rightly pointed out by the learned Public Prosecutor there is enough evidence to show that the accused had shared common intention. A1 to A6 were residing in a common room at Kozhiparamba belonging to PW8 Biriyumma. They were permanent residents of Malda district in West Bengal which is proved by the evidence of PW16 coupled with Ext.P23 series certificates. A2 to A6 were found wearing shirt and pant and they were found in possession only counterfeit currency notes in their possession. Counterfeit Indian Currency Notes of 9BT series were seized from the possession of A1, A3, A4, A5 and A6. Similarly, A1 to A3 were found in possession of fake currency notes of 6AV series. The box from which recovery was made at the instance of A1 was not locked. In the said box MO.3 series fake currency notes were kept in a separate bundle and MO.9 series genuine currency notes were also kept in separate bundle. It is an indication that after exchanging the fake currency notes they were keeping the genuine currency notes together in a bundle. The evidence of PW8 owner of the building shows that A1 and A2 who took

the room told that the agreement can be prepared later. It is also an indication that they wanted to conceal their identity. These factors discussed above shows that accused had common intention.

- 46. By examining DW1 and DW2 and by producing Ext.D1 the learned counsel appearing for A2 to A6 made an attempt to show that the accused were staying elsewhere. The evidence of DW1 Madai Basheer is to the effect that accused were residing in a building owned by Anakayom Kunjumohammed. But DW1 frankly admitted that the building was taken on rent by his brother and there was no agreement for sub letting. So the contention that DW1 sublet the room to the accused cannot be believed. Further the evidence of DW2 Municipal Secretary shows that as per Ext.D1 it was single storied building and the first floor was constructed unauthorizedly during 2014. Thereafter, they had given direction to regularize the construction. The incident in this case happened on 17.9.2012. So it can be seen that the accused miserably failed to prove the plea of alibi taken by them by examining DW1.
- 47. Though the witnesses were thoroughly cross examined nothing was brought out to discredit their testimony. PW19 the investigating officer stated that if it is assumed that 1000/- rupee currency note is transacted for 10 times in a day the damage caused to the economy will be 136 lakhs per year for which there is RBI circular. It is an indication how the fake Indian currency notes are causing damage to the Indian

economy. Here in this case 67 fake currency notes of 1000/- rupee denomination were seized from the possession of A1 to A6 and it cannot be taken lightly. Hence, assessing the evidence as a whole it can be safely concluded that prosecution has proved the case beyond any reasonable doubt against the accused and so the points are found in favour of the prosecution.

48. **Point No.4**:- In the result first accused is found guilty under Sections 489B and 489 C r/w 34 of IPC and A2 to A6 are found guilty under Section 489C r/w 34 of IPC.

Dictated to the Confidential Asst., transcribed and typewritten by her, corrected and pronounced by me in open court this the 23rd day of March, 2017.

Sd/-S. Santhosh Kumar, Judge, Special court for NIA Cases.

Heard about the question of sentence. They pleads that they are innocent and to pardon them. Considering the nature and circumstances of the case I don't find any reason to invoke the Probation of Offenders Act. A1 is convicted and sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for 5 years and to pay a fine of ₹25000/- in default of payment of fine to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for 6 months for the offence punishable u/s. 489B of IPC and Rigorous Imprisonment for 3 years for the offence punishable u/s. 489C r/w 34 of IPC. A2 to A6 are convicted and sentenced

to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for 3 years for the offence punishable u/s. 489C r/w 34 of IPC. Sentences of imprisonment of A1 shall run concurrently. Set off is allowed u/s. 428 CrPC.

Dictated to the Confidential Asst., transcribed and typewritten by her, corrected and pronounced by me in open court this the 23rd day of March, 2017.

Sd/-S. Santhosh Kumar, Judge, Special court for NIA Cases.

APPENDIX

Prosecution Exhibits:-					
P1	17.09.2012	Seizure Mahazar for FICN from A1.			
P2	17.01.2013	Scene Mahazar of INSAT Mobile shop.			
Р3	17.09.2012	Recovery Mahazar of FICN and original currency note from A1.			
P4	17.09.2012	Seizure Mahazar for three FICNs from A2.			
P5	17.09.2012	Seizure Mahazar for four FICNs from A3.			
P6	17.09.2012	Seizure Mahazar for four FICNs from A4.			
P7	17.09.2012	Seizure Mahazar for five FICNs from A5.			
P8	18.09.2012	Seizure Mahazar for one FICN from A6.			
P9	18.09.2012	Scene Mahazar of rented building at Mele- Kozhiparambu.			
P10	11.05.2015	Ownership certificate vide No. A2/2077/15 of building No. XI/335.			
P11	11.05.2015	Building plan of rented building at Mele- Kozhiparambu.			
P12	12.12.2013	Site plan of INSAT mobile shop.			
n nR13	26.03.2014	Certificate of ownership of INSAT Mobile shop vide No. R2 7158/14.			
P14	is boodi on a	Inspection memo of A1 Muhammed Masidul.			
P15	17.09.2012	FIR In Crime 1288/2012 of Manjeri Police station.			
1.6%					

P16	17.09.2012	Relevant portion of confession of A1.
P17	18.09.2012	Report for incorporating Sec. 34 IPC.
P18		Report for Incorporating A2 to A6 and address of accused in detail.
P19		Carbon copy of arrest memos of A1 to A6.
P20		Inspection memos of A2 to A6.
P21	29.07.2013	Opinion report from Regional Forensic Science Laboratory.
P22	29.07.2013	Forwarding letter of opinion - P21.
P23 Series	03.02.2015	Residence certificate of accused (7 sheets).
P24	12.11.2013	FIR In R.C6/2013/NIA/KOC.
P24(a)	26.09.2013	Copy of Sanction Order.
P25	19.01.2013	Report for correction and direction in the scene mahazar of rented building at Mele Kozhiparambu.
P26	16.01.2013	Report for the correction of time of occurrence in FIR.
P27	27.02.2013	Seizure Mahazar.
P28	12.02.2013	Letter submitted by Village officer, Manjeri in connection with submission of scene plan of INSAT mobile shop, Manjeri, Malappuram.
P29	08.02.2013	Copy of forwarding note of forwarding forged notes for examination.
P30	03.09.2014	Forwarding note of currency notes to Director, Currency note press, Jail Road, Nasik, Maharashtra.
P31	05.12.2014	Report from Currency note press, Jail Road, Nasik, Maharashtra.

Defence Exhibits:-

D1 – Extract of Building Tax Register for the year 2010-11.

Prosecution Witnesses:-

PW1 Aboobacker Sidhique

PW2 Firoz. P.K.

PW3 Cas Anas.K.

PW4 Yousef. N.A. PW5 N.G Dinesan PW6 Naushad.M. Krishnan Nambisan.M.P. PW7 PW8 Birivumma PW9 P. Moideen Kutty PW10 P. Karuppuswami **PW11** Premanandan.K. Muhammed Ali.P.P. PW12 PW13 Ramakrishnan.P. **PW14** M.S.Rajeev **PW15** K.P. Sulaika PW16 Kausik Paul **PW17** A. Ramesh Reddi

Abdul Bashir.P.

Biju John Lukose

Defence Witnesses:-

DW1 - Madayi Basheer.M.

DW2 - Sini.T.N.

PW18 PW19

Material Objects:-

MO1 Fake Indian currency of ₹1000/- with serial No. 9 BT 921153.

MO2 series Fake Indian currency of ₹1000/- with serial Nos.

1. 5BK516840

2. 9BT924468

3. 6AV727349

MO3 Series Fake Indian currency of ₹1000/- (45 Nos.)

MO4 Series Fake Indian currency of ₹1000/- with serial Nos.

6AV727342
 6AV727358
 6AV727360

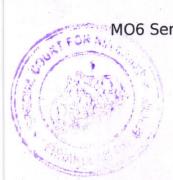
4. 9BT921128

MO5 Series Fake Indian currency of ₹1000/- with serial Nos.

1. 6AV727372 2. 6AV727359 3. 6AV727353 4. 9BT921198

MO6 Series Fake Indian currency of ₹1000/- with serial Nos.

9BT921122
 9BT921123
 9BT921158



4. 9BT921196

MO7 Series Fake Indian currency of ₹1000/- with serial Nos.

1. 9BT919373 2. 9BT924402 3. 9BT917467 4. 9BT924483

5. 9BT917465

MO8 Fake Indian currency of ₹1000/- with serial No.9BT921175.

MO9 Series Original Indian currency notes of ₹ 14,970/-

(₹100X126 Nos.,₹50X25Nos.,₹20X26Nos.,₹10X55Nos.,₹5X10Nos.)



Id/-Judge, Special Court for NIA Cases

//True Copy//

(By Order)

Sheristadar.

Sincoli

Typed by: RTR Comp.by: SKM

Copy of Judgment is SC 3/2015 NIA Did. 23.03.2017