

CrPC S. 482, 397 - Materials relied upon by the accused which are in the nature of public documents can be looked into

crpc s. 482, 397 - While exercising inherent jurisdiction under Section 482 or revisional jurisdiction under section 397 of the code in a case where complaint is sought to be quashed, it is not proper for the High Court to consider the defence of the accused or embark upon an enquiry in respect of merits of the accusations - However, in an appropriate case, if on the face of the documents — which are beyond suspicion or doubt — placed by the accused, the accusations against him cannot stand, it would be travesty of justice if the accused is relegated to trial and he is asked to prove his defence before the trial court - In such a matter, for promotion of justice or to prevent injustice or abuse of process, the High Court may look into the materials which have significant bearing on the matter at prima facie stage- In our judgment, the observations in State of M.P v. Awadh Kishore Gupta, 2004 1 SCC 691, cannot be read to mean that in a criminal case where trial is yet to take place and the matter is at the stage of issuance of summons or taking cognizance, materials relied upon by the accused which are in the nature of public documents or the materials which are beyond suspicion or doubt, in no circumstance, can be looked into by the High Court in exercise of its jurisdiction under Section 482 or for that matter in exercise of revisional jurisdiction under section 397 of the code.

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Tags: CrPC S. 397, CrPC S. 482, NIA S. 141