

HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE C.PRAVEEN KUMAR

CRIMINAL PETITION No.313 of 2015

ORDER:

The petitioner, who is accused No.1, filed this Criminal Petition under Section 438 Cr.P.C. seeking release in the event of his arrest in connection with O.R.No.20/2012-2013 of F.R.O., Kadapa Range, registered for the offences punishable under Section 379 IPC, Section 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Act read with Rule 3 of Andhra Pradesh Sandal Wood Possession Rules, 1989 and Andhra Pradesh Sandalwood and Red Sander wood Rules, 1969 and Sections 7, 55 (2) and 58 of the Bio-Diversity Act, 2002.

At the time when the matter is taken up for hearing the learned counsel for the petitioner submits that all the offences alleged against the petitioner are punishable with a term less than seven years, as such, seeks a direction to the investigating agency to follow the judgment of the Apex Court in ***Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar and another***^[1].

In ***Arnesh Kumar case (1 supra)*** the Apex Court held as under:

- 1) All the State Governments to instruct its police officers not to automatically arrest when a case under Section 498-A of the IPC is registered but to satisfy themselves about the necessity for arrest under the parameters laid down above flowing from Section 41 Cr.P.C.
- 2) All police officers be provided with a check list containing specified sub-clauses under Section 41 (1) (b) (ii);
- 3) The police officer shall forward the check list duly filed and furnish the reasons and materials which

necessitated the arrest, while forwarding/producing the accused before the Magistrate for further detention;

- 4) The Magistrate while authorizing detention of the accused shall peruse the report furnished by the police officer in terms aforesaid and only after recording its satisfaction, the Magistrate will authorize detention;
- 5) The decision not to arrest an accused, be forwarded to the Magistrate within two weeks from the date of the institution of the case with a copy to the Magistrate which may be extended by the Superintendent of police of the district for the reasons to be recorded in writing;
- 6) Notice of appearance in terms of Section 41 A of Cr.P.C. be served on the accused within two weeks from the date of institution of the case, which may be extended by the Superintendent of Police of the District for the reasons to be recorded in writing;
- 7) Failure to comply with the directions aforesaid shall apart from rendering the police officers concerned liable for departmental action, they shall also be liable to be punished for contempt of Court to be instituted before High Court having territorial jurisdiction.
- 8) Authorising detention without recording reasons as aforesaid by the Magistrate concerned shall be liable for departmental action by the appropriate high court.

The Apex Court also held that “ the directions aforesaid shall not only apply to the cases under Section 498-A of the IPC or Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, the case in hand, but also such cases where offence is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may be less than seven years or which may extend to seven years; whether with or without fine.”

In view of the judgment of the Apex Court referred to above and since the offence alleged against the petitioner is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may be less than seven years, the investigating agency shall scrupulously follow the conditions stipulated in the judgment of the Apex Court and also Section 41 Cr.P.C., before taking any coercive steps against the petitioner.

With the above direction, the Criminal Petition is disposed of.

JUSTICE C. PRAVEEN KUMAR

16.02.2015
gkv

[\[1\]](#) 2014 (2) ALT (Cri.) 457 SC