

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

CRM-M No. 12175 of 2017(O&M)

Date of decision: 25.4.2017

Master Bant Singh

....Petitioner

VERSUS

State of Punjab and another

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE REKHA MITTAL

Present: Mr. Gurpal Singh Sandhu, Advocate for the petitioner.

REKHA MITTAL, J.(Oral)

The petitioner prays for grant of bail in anticipation of arrest in FIR No.0045 dated 03.05.2016 registered with Police Station Dehlon, Ludhiana Commissionerate for offence punishable under Sections 354-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (in short 'IPC') and 4 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

Counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the petitioner is 60 years old and has rendered service for about 40 years as a Teacher but there is not even a single complaint against him levelling allegations with regard to his character. It is further submitted that the petitioner has been falsely involved in the case at the instance of Inderpal Kaur, a lady teacher who has taken a loan of Rs.4 lakhs from the petitioner and is also the Drawing and Disbursing Officer. Another submission made by counsel is that dispute between the parties has been settled by way of compromise (Annexure P-3) and Malkiat Singh, author of the FIR has given in writing by way of affidavit that under the influence of his daughter and co-villagers, he registered the instant FIR. It is vehemently argued that in view of the developments subsequent to initiating criminal proceedings,

the petitioner may be allowed concession of grant of bail in anticipation of arrest when otherwise he is ready to face the proceedings in accordance with law.

I have heard counsel for the petitioner, perused the paper-book but find that the petition is devoid of merit and deserves to be dismissed. There are serious allegations levelled against the petitioner with regard to ravishing a girl child aged 10 years. There is nothing on record suggestive of the fact that the petitioner has any civil or criminal litigation with the family members of the prosecutrix. The very fact that the petitioner has already started tampering with the investigation with the help of co-villagers is sufficient to deny him benefit of pre-arrest bail. Under these circumstances, any affidavit executed by the complainant, father of the prosecutrix by no means can be taken favourable to the petitioner for allowing him concession of bail in anticipation of arrest.

In view of above, the petition fails and is accordingly dismissed.

On request made by counsel for the petitioner, in case the petitioner surrenders before the Illaqa Magistrate within a period of 7 days and files an application for grant of regular bail, the same shall be disposed of within 10 days from the date of its filing.

APRIL 25, 2017

‘D. Gulati’

(REKHA MITTAL)

JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned	:	yes/no
Whether reportable	:	yes/no