

In the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, at Chandigarh

Criminal Misc. No. M-24181 of 2017

Date of Decision: 11.07.2017

Chameli Devi

... Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of Haryana

... Respondent(s)

CORAM: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shekher Dhawan.

Present: Mr. Pawan Kumar Hooda, Advocate
for the petitioner(s).

Shekher Dhawan, J.

Present petition under Section 438 Cr.P.C. for grant of pre-arrest bail in case FIR No. 268 dated 28.7.2016, registered under Sections 409 & 420 IPC at Police Station Matlauda (Panipat) to petitioner, namely Chameli Devi, who was working as Sarpanch at the relevant time when the alleged embezzlement running into crores of rupees of Panchayat took place.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contended that as per letter written by the Deputy Commissioner on 21.7.2016, FIR was recommended to be registered against Suresh Kumar, Jai Bhagwan and Nafe Singh and not against the present petitioner. Moreso, responsibility to handle the accounts and utilize the funds was of Gram Sachivs and not of the present petitioner, who was Sarpanch and otherwise is an illiterate lady.

Having considered the submissions made by learned counsel for the petitioner and the fact that huge funds of Gram Panchayat running into crores of rupees have been embezzled and investigation is yet to take place,

it is very difficult to believe that such an embezzlement can take place without active connivance of Sarpanch. However, without expressing anything on merits of the case, petitioner is not entitled to be released on pre-arrest bail and thus, present petition stands dismissed.

(Shekher Dhawan)
Judge

July 11, 2017
“DK”

Whether speaking/reasoned	:	Yes/No
Whether reportable	:	Yes/No