

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPURMisc. Criminal Case No.1264 of 2018

1. Manu Matre, S/o Kanhaiya Matre, aged about 24 years,
2. Udayram, S/o Nangsai Ogare, aged about 30 years,

Both R/o Village Paunsari, Police Station & Tahsil Bhatapara, District
(Revenue & Civil) Balodabazar-Bhatapara (C.G.)

---- Applicants

Versus

State of Chhattisgarh, Through Police Station Bhatapara (Rural),
District (Revenue & Civil) Balodabazar-Bhatapara (C.G.)

---- Non-applicant

For Applicants:	Mr. Sanjeev Das, Advocate.
For Non-applicant:	Mr. Dilman Rati Minj, Deputy Govt. Advocate.

Hon'ble Shri Justice Sanjay K. Agrawal

Order On Board

22/02/2018

1. The accused/applicants have moved this bail application under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for releasing them on regular bail during trial in connection with Crime No.338/2017, registered at Police Station Bhatapara (Rural), Distt. Balodabazar-Bhatapara, for the offence punishable under Section 34 (2) of the Chhattisgarh Excise Act, 1915; Sections 420, 409, 120B, 272 read with Section 34 of the IPC; and Section 25 of the Arms Act.
2. Case of the prosecution, in brief, is that 46.800 bulk liters of liquor was unauthorisedly found in possession of the applicants.
3. Learned counsel for the applicants submits that the applicants have not committed any offence, they have falsely been implicated in the case, they are in custody since 9-10-2017 and two prosecution witnesses namely Mahadev Dhruv (PW-1) & Ramu Devdas (PW-2)

have been examined and they have not supported the case of the prosecution, therefore, the applicants may be released on bail.

4. On the other hand, learned counsel for the State opposes the bail application.
5. I have heard learned counsel appearing for the parties and perused the case diary.
6. Taking into consideration the condition incorporated in Section 59-A(ii) of the Chhattisgarh Excise Act, 1915, and bearing in mind the principles of law laid down in **Banti Singh v. State of Chhattisgarh** (M.Cr.C.No.6846 of 2014, decided on 05.01.2015), if the facts of the present case are examined, it is apparent that only 46.800 bulk liters of illicit liquor has been seized from the applicants which is more than the prescribed limit of 5 bulk liters, but looking to the fact that the applicants are in custody from 9-10-2017, the case is triable by the Judicial Magistrate First Class, trial is likely to take some more time and further taking into account the nature and gravity of offence and the plea raised by the applicants that they have falsely been implicated in the case, particularly the applicants are in custody for more than five months, I am of the opinion that present is a fit case in which the applicants should be enlarged on regular bail.
7. Accordingly, the bail application filed under Section 439 of the CrPC is allowed. It is directed that on furnishing a personal bond in the sum of Rs.25,000/- each with one surety in the like sum to the satisfaction of the concerned Court for their appearance as and when directed, the applicants shall be released on bail, subject to following conditions:

1. That, the applicants shall furnish a specific undertaking that while on bail, they will not commit any excise offence, otherwise

bail granted to them shall be liable to be cancelled and shall co-operate the investigation / trial.

2. That, the accused/applicants shall make themselves available for interrogation before the concerned Investigating Officer as and when required and the accused/applicants shall not, directly or indirectly, make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him/her from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer.
3. That, the accused/applicants shall not act, in any manner, which will be prejudicial to fair and expeditious trial.

Sd/-
(Sanjay K. Agrawal)
Judge

Soma