

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

CRM-M-21697 of 2020(O&M)

Date of Decision: 13.08.2020

Sonia Bedi

Petitioner.

Versus

State of Punjab

Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MRS.JUSTICE LISA GILL

Present: Mr. Veneet Sharma, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. S.S.Deol, DAG., Punjab.

LISA GILL, J.

This matter is being taken up for hearing through video conferencing due to outbreak of the pandemic, COVID-19.

The petitioner, who is the mother-in-law of the deceased, seeks the concession of bail pending trial in FIR No.25, dated 11.02.2020, under Sections 306, 34 IPC, registered at Police Station City South District Moga.

As per allegations in the FIR, which was registered on the statement of Rachpal Kaur, (mother of the deceased), marriage of her son namely Parwinder Singh was solemnized with the daughter of the present petitioner namely, Neetu Bedi, on 31.03.2019. It is further stated that the complainant's son and daughter-in-law had gone to the parental home of the daughter-in-law at the Lohri function, where there was an altercation between them. The complainant's son returned home the next day and revealed to his mother, that his wife had asked him to obtain his share in the house and after selling the same he was asked to start living at Amritsar. It is further stated that the petitioner's daughter-in-law, however gave an application against her son at the Women Cell, Amritsar,

pursuant to which she along with her son were called to the Women Cell, but no settlement could take place. Consequent thereto, her son start remaining under depression. It is alleged that the present petitioner and her daughter (complainant's daughter-in-law), started threatening her son on telephone for selling of his share of the property. Being fed up with the same, the complainant's son committed suicide by hanging himself in his living room.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that it is debatable, whether the rigours of Section 306 IPC are attracted in the present case. It is further submitted that marriage of the petitioner's daughter was solemnized on 31.03.2019 and she was in fact, turned out of the matrimonial home on 13.01.2020. A complaint in this respect was admittedly submitted on 17.01.2020. The petitioner's son-in-law, unfortunately committed suicide at his own residence on 11.02.2020. It is argued that no offence is made out qua the petitioner in the given circumstances. The petitioner has been in custody for a considerable time. Challan stands presented. No recovery has to be effected from the petitioner. It is thus prayed that this petition be allowed.

Learned counsel for the respondent-State, on instructions from ASI Harjinder Singh, verifies that the final report under Section 173 Cr.P.C, stands presented and that the petitioner, who is the mother-in-law of the deceased, is not involved in any other criminal case. Due to the outbreak of the pandemic-COVID-19, not much progress is being made in the trial.

There are no allegations on behalf of the State that the petitioner is likely to abscond or that she is likely to dissuade the witnesses from deposing true facts in Court, if released on bail. No useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioner incarcerated any longer in the facts and circumstances of

this case.

Keeping in view the facts and circumstances as above but without commenting upon or expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, this petition is allowed. The petitioner, Sonia Bedi, be released on bail pending trial subject to her furnishing requisite bail bonds and surety to the satisfaction of the learned Trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

It is clarified that none of the observations made hereinabove shall be construed to be a reflection on the merits of the case. The same are solely confined for the purpose of decision of the present petition.

13.08.2020
s.khan

[LISA GILL]
Judge

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