

HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

210

CRM-M No.24211 of 2020(O&M)

Date of Decision: 08.10.2020

Rukmani Devi

... Petitioner

VS.

State of Punjab

... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE GIRISH AGNIHOTRI

Present: Mr. MS Kathuria, Advocate for the petitioner

Ms. Rashmi Attri, AAG Punjab

GIRISH AGNIHOTRI, J. (Oral)

The matter has been taken up through video conferencing on account of lockdown due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

CRM-24314-2020

Allowed as prayed for.

Amended petition is taken on record.

Registry to tag the same at an appropriate place.

Main Case

The petitioner Rukmani Devi who is stated to be aged 60 years has filed the present petition *inter alia* with a prayer for grant of regular bail. He has been allegedly involved in case FIR No.251 dated 02.07.2017 under Section 304-B IPC registered at PS Jodhewal, District Ludhiana.

Learned counsel based upon the pleadings submits that a perusal of the FIR would show that the FIR has been lodged against the petitioner and three other family members. The marriage of the son of the

Pradesh. It is submitted by the counsel that the petitioner was arrested on 02.07.2017 and has completed more than 3 years of custody.

Learned State counsel, on instructions from ASI Surinder Singh, submits that there are a total of 16 witnesses and all the witnesses have been examined.

Faced with the situation, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that inspite the above, it is a fact that because of COVID-19 situation, the criminal trial is not proceeding further. The defence arguments and evidence are also yet to be conducted. He further submits that considering the age of the petitioner, who is 60 years old lady and the fact that her husband-Ramdeen, had already been granted bail by this Court vide order dated 10.08.2020 passed in CRM-M No.20378 of 2020, the petitioner may also be granted the concession of regular bail.

In view of the above, this Court deems it appropriate to release the petitioner on regular bail subject to her furnishing adequate bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Duty Magistrate/trial court concerned.

However, it is made clear that anything observed herein shall not be construed to be an expression on merits of the case.

Disposed of.

08.10.2020

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(Girish Agnihotri)
Judge

1. *Whether speaking/reasoned?*
2. *Whether reportable?*

Yes/No
Yes/No