

CRM-M-22100-2021

Date of Decision: 11.06.2021

PUNAM

... PETITIONER

VS.

STATE OF PUNJAB

.. RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIVEK PURI

Present : Mr. Sunil Garg, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Sidakmeet Singh Sandhu, AAG, Punjab.

VIVEK PURI, J.(ORAL)

The matter has been taken up through video-conferencing due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Prayer in this petition is for grant of regular bail in case bearing FIR No.53 dated 04.04.2021 under Sections 419, 420, 120-B, 365, 384, 389, 342, 506 and 170 IPC, registered at Police Station Urban Estate, Patiala.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that as per allegations in the FIR, registered at the instance of one Mohinder Singh Rawat, he is posted as Manager in SBI Branch, Moonak and about four months ago, he received a call from the petitioner from mobile No.70872-79009 and she informed that she is a widow lady and liked him and wanted to meet him. On 26.02.2021, the complainant went to house of the petitioner and stayed there for about one hour. When they were having meal, two police officials came there. One of them was in uniform and disclosed his name as ASI Ashok Kumar and another person disclosed his name as Amarjit Singh, who was in formal dress. ASI Ashok slapped him and forcibly took away ATM card and some other documents and threatened him that if he did not make the payment, he will publish his name in the newspaper. Thereafter, ASI Ashok Kumar withdrew an amount of Rs.1.00 lakh and further demanded Rs.3.00 lakh. Under pressure, the complainant called

his wife for making arrangement of an amount of Rs.2.50 lakh, but she stated that same cannot be arranged before 10.00 a.m. next day. The complainant along with Amarjit Singh went to his friend Joginder Batra and borrowed Rs.2.00 lakh and paid to ASI Ashok Kumar. It is further stated that later on, he came to know that one Faquir Chand impersonated himself as ASI Ashok Kumar, who was posted as Sub Inspector in Wireless Department, whereas real name of other person, who impersonated himself as Amarjit Singh, is Teja Singh.

It has been further stated by learned counsel for the petitioner that she is a widow aged about 52 years, falsely implicated in the instant case, Teja Singh (Co-accused) has been granted pre-arrest bail by a Coordinate Bench of this Court, the investigation of the case is complete and challan has already been presented in the Court. Moreover, there is no allegation of extracting money levelled against her and she is in custody for a period of more than two months.

Learned State counsel, on instructions from ASI Amrik Singh has not assailed the aforesaid facts, but has argued that there are serious allegations levelled against the petitioner.

Be that as it may, the petitioner is a widow lady, aged about 52 years, the co-accused has been granted pre-arrest bail, the investigation of the case is complete and conclusion of trial is likely to take some time on account of restricted hearings due to Covid-19 Pandemic. In such circumstances, sufficient grounds are made out to extend the concession of bail to the petitioner.

Accordingly, without making any expression on the merits of the case, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail, subject to his furnishing bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of Chief Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate/Trial Court.

11.06.2021
smriti

(VIVEK PURI)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned	: Yes/No
Whether Reportable	: Yes/No