

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

**CRM-M No.22256 of 2021
Date of Decision:-9th July, 2021.**

Sonu @ Balraj Singh

.....Petitioner.

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent.

(Heard through Video-Conferencing)

CORAM: *HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MEENAKSHI I. MEHTA*

Present:- Mr. Impinder Singh Dhaliwal, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Sidakmeet Singh Sandhu, AAG, Punjab.

MEENAKSHI I. MEHTA, J.

Apprehending his arrest in the criminal case registered at Police Station Lambi, District Sri Muktsar Sahib vide FIR No.119 dated 13.05.2021 under Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, the petitioner has preferred this petition for seeking the relief of anticipatory bail.

As per the allegations as levelled in the subject FIR, on receipt of a secret information regarding the petitioner and his wife as well as one Lakhwinder Singh indulging in the flesh trade, a raid was conducted and 2 girls and 4 male customers, along-with accused Bittu Kaur, the wife of the petitioner, were nabbed.

Written reply on behalf of the respondent-State, by way of

the affidavit of Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sub-Division, Malout, District Sri Muktsar Sahib, has already been filed.

I have heard learned counsel for the petitioner as well as learned State counsel in the present petition and have also perused the file thoroughly.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner is the supporter of his co-accused Lakhwinder Singh @ Lakha, the Ex-Sarpanch of the village and he has been falsely implicated in this case due to the political vendetta being pursued by the opponents of his said co-accused and the petitioner is ready to join in the investigation and therefore, he deserves the concession of anticipatory bail.

However, learned State counsel argues that as per the version as set-forth in the present FIR, the petitioner is the prime accused as he has been specifically alleged to be instrumental in running the flesh trade and moreover, the girls, who were found present and were nabbed at the spot at the time of the raid, have also suffered disclosure statements regarding his (petitioner's) active involvement in the commission of the offence in this case and in these circumstances, the present petition deserves dismissal.

As per the allegations levelled in the present FIR, the police officials had received a secret information that the petitioner and his wife Bittu Kaur, along-with their co-accused Lakhwinder Singh, were running the flesh trade in the premises owned by their said co-accused. His (petitioner's) wife Bittu Kaur was apprehended at the spot at the time of

the raid and was arrested in this case as specifically mentioned in para 2(ii) of the preliminary submissions made in the written reply and in para (iii) thereof, it has been categorically stated that during the investigation, both the girls, who were found present at the time of the raid by the police party, disclosed that they had paid a part of the amount, as paid to them by their male customers, to the petitioner as well as both his above-named co-accused. In these circumstances, the *modus-operandi* adopted by the petitioner for committing the alleged offence needs to be elicited from him and the possibility of the requirement of his custodial interrogation for the said purpose cannot be ruled out.

Keeping in view the above-discussed facts and circumstances as well as the gravity of the offence as alleged to have been committed by the petitioner in this case, it follows that the instant petition deserves dismissal.

Resultantly, the same stands dismissed accordingly.

July 09, 2021
Yag Dutt

(MEENAKSHI I. MEHTA)
JUDGE

<i>Whether speaking/reasoned:</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>
<i>Whether Reportable:</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>