

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

CRIMINAL ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO.1262 OF 2021

Rajendra Bhimrao Marathe

...Applicant

Vs.

The State of Maharashtra

... Respondent

Mr.Viresh V. Purwant for the Applicant.

Mr.S.R. Agarkar, APP for the Respondent-State.

Mr.Bharate, PN/180, Barshi Taluka Police Station, Solapur
(Rural).

CORAM : C.V. BHADANG, J.

DATE : 21 FEBRUARY 2022

P.C.

. The Applicant, apprehending arrest, in connection with the investigation of Crime No.86 of 2021 registered with Barshi Taluka Police Station, District-Solapur, under Section 3,4,5 of the Prevention of Immoral Trafficking Act ('PITA Act' for short), is seeking anticipatory bail.

2. On prior information a raid was conducted at RDS lodge situated at Mouje Jamgaon, Barshi Taluka, District-Solapur. The Applicant is the licensee of the said lodge. A decoy customer was sent and it was found that there was prostitution going on in the said lodge.

3. The learned counsel for the Applicant submitted that the Applicant was not present at the time of the raid and he had appointed a Manager to manage the affairs of the lodge who has been arrested and he is released on bail. It is submitted that the Applicant has no complicity in the offence.

4. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that the Applicant as a licensee was conducting the lodge and thus ought to be aware of the prostitution being conducted in the said lodge.

5. I have considered the submissions made *prima facie* it appears that the Applicant was not present at the time of the raid. The Manager has been arrested and released on bail. The investigation is said to be complete. In such circumstances, the following order is passed.

ORDER

(i) In the event of his arrest in connection with investigation of Crime No.86 of 2021 registered with Barshi Taluka Police Station, District-Solapur, the applicant shall be released on bail on executing a P.R. Bond in the sum of Rs.25,000/- with one or two solvent sureties in the like amount.

(ii) The applicant shall report to the Investigating Officer on 28 February and 1 March 2022 between 11.00 am to 1.00 p.m. and as and when called by the investigating officer and shall co-operate with the Investigating Agency.

(iii) The Application is disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

C.V. BHADANG, J.