

CRM-M-2946-2022 (O&M)
Decided on 11.02.2022
(Heard through VC)

NAVJOT SHARMA

...Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

...Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE JAISHREE THAKURPresent:- Mr. Akshay Kumar Goel, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. A. S. Gill, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

JAISHREE THAKUR, J. (Oral)

The instant petition has been filed under Section 439 Cr.P.C., for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.154 dated 25.09.2020 under Sections 363, 366, 343, 376 IPC, and Sections 4 & 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, registered at Police Station Bullowal, Tehsil and District Hoshiarpur.

Learned counsel for the petitioner would contend that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the said FIR. It is argued that the prosecutrix has been examined during trial who has now turned hostile and did not support the prosecution version. Even another material witness Mohinder Kaur, mother of the prosecutrix has also turned hostile. It is also contended that conclusion of trial is likely to take sufficient time, as such, the petitioner is entitled to be enlarged on bail.

Per contra, learned counsel appearing on behalf of respondent-State, would oppose grant of regular bail to the petitioner while pointing to the seriousness of allegations levelled against him. However, he is not able to dispute the fact that statement of the prosecutrix has been recorded, who has turned hostile.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties. In view of the facts that the statements of material witnesses including the prosecutrix have been recorded, who have turned hostile and did not support the prosecution version and there remains no apprehension of the petitioner to influence any material witness and trial is likely to take some time to conclude as the medical report has yet to be received, no useful purpose would be served in keeping the petitioner behind bars. At this stage, without commenting on the merits of the case, the instant petition is allowed and the petitioner is directed to be released on regular bail on execution of adequate personal bond and surety bond to the satisfaction of concerned trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

However, anything observed or said by this court is only for the purpose of deciding the instant petition for grant of regular bail and the same shall have no affect on the merits of the case.

11.02.2022

Riya

(JAISHREE THAKUR)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned :

Yes

No

Whether Reportable :

Yes

No