

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
CRIMINAL MISCELLANEOUS No.35972 of 2023

Arising Out of PS. Case No.-141 Year-2022 Thana- RIGA District- Sitamarhi

PHULO DEVI W/O THAGAN SAHNI R/O Village- Ward No. 08,
Basantpur, P.S- Riga, Distt.- Sitamarhi.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

THE STATE OF BIHAR.

... .. Opposite Party/s

Appearance :

For the Petitioner : Mr. Ayush Kumar, Advocate
For the State : Mr. Jharkhandi Upadhyay, APP

CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE VIPUL M. PANCHOLI
ORAL ORDER

2 26-07-2023 This application is filed under Section 438 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for enlarging the applicant on anticipatory bail in connection with Riga P.S. Case No.141 of 2022, registered for the offence punishable under Section 304(B)/34 of the Indian Penal Code.

2. Heard Mr. Ayush Kumar, learned advocate for the applicant and Mr. Jharkhandi Upadhyay, learned APP for respondent-State.

3. Learned advocate for the applicant submits that the nature of allegations are such for which custodial interrogation at this stage is not necessary. He further submits that the applicant will keep herself available during the course of investigation, trial also and will not flee from justice.

4. Learned advocate for the applicant on instructions



states that the applicant is ready and willing to abide by all the conditions including imposition of conditions with regard to powers of Investigating Agency to file an application before the competent Court for her remand. He further submits that upon filing of such application by the Investigating Agency, the right of applicant accused to oppose such application on merits may be kept open. Learned advocate, therefore, submitted that considering the above facts, the applicant may be granted anticipatory bail.

5. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing on behalf of the respondent - State has opposed grant of anticipatory bail looking to the nature and gravity of the offence.

6. Having heard the learned advocates for the parties and perusing the material placed on record and taking into consideration the facts of the case, nature of allegations, gravity of offences, role attributed to the accused, without discussing the evidence in detail, at this stage, I am inclined to grant anticipatory bail to the applicant.

7. This Court has considered following aspects:

- (i) Applicant is a lady aged about 57 years.
- (ii) The father-in-law of the deceased, i.e., the husband of the present applicant was arrested and he has faced



trial. After conclusion of the trial, the concerned trial court has acquitted him. Copy of order of acquittal is placed on record.

(iii) Learned counsel for the applicant has referred the observations made by the concerned trial court while acquitting the co-accused, i.e., father-in-law of the deceased.

(iv) It is revealed from the record that the original first informant has not supported the case of the prosecution and he has been declared hostile.

(v) Custodial interrogation of the applicant is not required in the facts of the present case.

8. This Court has also taken into consideration the law laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of **Siddharam Satlingappa Mhetre Vs. State of Maharashtra and Ors.**, reported at **(2011) 1 SCC 694**, wherein the Hon'ble Apex Court reiterated the law laid down by the Constitution Bench in the case of **Shri Gurubaksh Singh Sibbia & Ors. Vs. State of Punjab**, reported at **(1980) 2 SCC 565**.

9. Accordingly, the applicant, named above, is ordered to be released on bail in the event of her arrest in connection with Riga P.S. Case No.141 of 2022, on her executing a personal bond of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) with one surety of like amount to the satisfaction of learned



Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate-VI, Sitamarhi on the following conditions:

(a) shall cooperate with the investigation and make herself available for interrogation, whenever required;

(b) shall remain present at concerned Police Station on 16th August, 2023 between 11:00 a.m. and 02:00 p.m.;

(c) shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the court or to any police officer;

(d) shall not obstruct or hamper the police investigation and not play mischief with the evidence collected or yet to be collected by the police;

(e) shall not leave India without the permission of the concerned trial court and, if having passport, shall deposit the same before the concerned trial court within a week; and

(f) it would be open to the Investigating Officer to file an application for remand if he considers it proper and just and the learned Magistrate would decide it on merits;

10. Despite this order, it would be open for the Investigating Agency to apply to the competent Magistrate, for police remand of the applicant. The applicant shall remain



present before the learned Magistrate on the first date of hearing of such application and on all subsequent occasions, as may be directed by the learned Magistrate. This would be sufficient to treat the accused in the judicial custody for the purpose of entertaining application of the prosecution for police remand. This is, however, without prejudice to the right of the accused to seek stay against an order of remand, if, ultimately, granted, and the power of the learned Magistrate to consider such a request in accordance with law. It is clarified that the applicant, even if, remanded to the police custody, upon completion of such period of police remand, shall be set free immediately, subject to other conditions of this anticipatory bail order.

11. At the trial, the concerned trial court shall not be influenced by the *prima facie* observations made by this Court in the present order.

12. This application is, accordingly, allowed.

(Vipul M. Pancholi, J.)

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