



Cr.O.P.No. 4981 of 2023

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A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA, J.

The petitioner who apprehends arrest at the hands of the respondent police for the offence punishable under Section 379 of IPC in Crime No.395 of 2022 on the file of the respondent police, seeks anticipatory bail.

2. The case of the prosecution is that based on the complaint given by the defacto complainant/Sub Inspector of Police, Vellore Police Station, Namakkal, the respondent Police found that the petitioner along with other accused had transported 3 bags of river sand, totally 9 bags of river sand by using two wheelers without obtaining permission from the Government. Hence the complaint.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that the petitioner is Coolie worker and he does not understand the consequences of taking three bags river sand in his two wheeler for his personal use, otherwise, he would not have committed the offence. He would further submit that the petitioner is innocent person and he has been falsely



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implicated in this case. He would further submit that the petitioner had purchased 3 bags of river sand from a dealer for personal use and at the time of interception, the petitioner was unable to produce the bill. He would submit that without prejudice to his contentions, the petitioner is prepared to deposit an amount of Rs.5,000/- towards any charitable organization or association. Therefore, he prays for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner.

4. The learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side) appearing for the respondent submitted that the petitioner had transported 3 bags of river sand each in their respective two wheelers, totally weighing about 9 bags of river sand, by using two wheeler without any valid bill. Hence, he vehemently opposed for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioners.

5. This Court in a batch of petitions in Crl.O.P.No.13334 of 2020 etc., dated 03.09.2020 had dismissed the earlier applications expressing the opinion that the offenders despite several orders passed by various Benches of this Court regarding illegal sand mining and knowing fully well about the evil consequences affecting the environment and society at large and the implications thereon, are indulging in the offences of illegal quarrying/mining,



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theft and smuggling of sand and minerals and that, finding that the case comes under the category of cases of large magnitude affecting and impacting livelihood of a very large number of people knowingly and unknowingly, had dismissed the earlier applications. Subsequently, the order of this Court in Crl.O.P.No.13334 of 2020 and etc batch dated 03.09.2020, was clarified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Hon'ble Supreme Court had not agreed with the broad sweep of the observation made by this Court in Paragraph 27 of the order in Crl.O.P.No.13334 of 2020 and the connected matters decided on 03.09.2020 and had directed that the role assigned to the person would have to be considered on case to case basis.

6. It is the case of the petitioner that the quantity is minimum intended for their personal use and that they had no previous case, however in order to curb the illegal sand mining activities and taking into consideration the voluntary submission made by the petitioner offering to deposit a considerable amount to any charitable organization or association, this Court is of the opinion that the petitioner may be directed to deposit a sum of **Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) to the credit of the concerned District Mineral Foundation Trust**, without prejudice to his



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rights and the contentions before the trial Court.

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7. Taking into consideration the facts and circumstances of the case, this Court is inclined to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioner with certain conditions.

8. Accordingly, the each of the petitioner shall make a non-refundable deposit of **Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only)** by way of Demand Draft/RTGS/NEFT to the credit of the **District Mineral Foundation Trust concerned**, without prejudice to their rights and contentions before the trial Court, on such deposit and production of proof, the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail in the event of arrest or on their appearance, within a period of fifteen days from the date on which the order copy made ready, before the **learned Judicial Magistrate, Paramathi, Namakkal District**, on condition that the petitioner shall execute a bond for a sum of **Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only)** with two sureties each for a like sum to the satisfaction of the respondent police or the police officer who intends to arrest or to the satisfaction of the learned Magistrate concerned, failing which, the petition for anticipatory bail shall



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stand dismissed and on further condition that:

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[a] the petitioner and the sureties shall affix their photographs and Left Thumb Impression in the surety bond and the Magistrate may obtain a copy of their Aadhar card or Bank pass Book to ensure their identity.

[b] the petitioner shall report before the respondent Police everyday at 10.30 a.m., until further orders.

[c] the petitioner shall not tamper with evidence or witness either during investigation or trial.

[d] the petitioner shall not abscond either during investigation or trial.

[e] On breach of any of the aforesaid conditions, the learned Magistrate/Trial Court is entitled to take appropriate action against the petitioner in accordance with law as if the conditions have been imposed and the petitioner released on bail by the learned Magistrate/Trial Court himself as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **P.K.Shaji vs. State of Kerala [(2005)AIR SCW 5560]**.

[f] If the accused thereafter abscond, a fresh FIR can be registered under Section 229A IPC.

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