

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

CRM-M-986-2023
Date of Decision:-15.02.2023

Mandeep Kaur

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ALOK JAIN

Present: Ms.Bhupinder Kaur Bhangu, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Arun Gupta, AAG, Punjab
assisted by ASI Kuldeep Singh.

Mr. Avtar Singh Khinda, Advocate for the complainant.

ALOK JAIN, J. (Oral)

Prayer is for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No. 55 dated 06.10.2022, under Sections 376, 506 of IPC later on added offences under Section 120-B IPC and Sections 5, 6, 11 and 12 of POCSO Act, registered at Police Station Dhilwan, District Kapurthala.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner is the step-mother of the prosecutrix and there was no role attributed to her in the FIR though the reason for her arrest was that she is the sister of the main accused-Harpreet Singh. She further contended that the entire story is concocted and the petitioner has been roped by the Police authorities by imposing Section 120-B IPC.

Learned State counsel has submitted the status report in a connected case bearing CRM-M-4105-2023 by way of affidavit of Sukhninder Singh (PPS) Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sub-Division Bholath Kapurthala along with Annexure R-1 (copy of MLR) and Annexure R-2(copy of statement), wherein, the prosecutrix has categorically stated that no allegations were made by her against her step-mother, rather she has gone to submit that she wants her family to be reunited and wants to attain education.

After hearing learned counsel for the parties and the fact that the petitioner is in custody since 10.10.2022 and the trial is likely to take long time, no useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioner behind the bars.

In view of the above, without commenting upon the merits, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on her furnishing bail and surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate, concerned.

However, nothing stated above shall be construed as a final expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

15.02.2023

manju

Whether speaking/reasoned:- Yes/No
Whether Reportable:- Yes/No

(ALOK JAIN)
JUDGE