

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

**CRM-M No. 19101 of 2023  
Date of Decision: 05.09.2023**

Sehdev Verma

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

**CORAM:    *HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MEENAKSHI I. MEHTA***

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Present:-     Mr. Gulzar Mohammad, Advocate  
                     for the petitioner.

Mr. Iqbal Singh Mann, DAG, Punjab.

**MEENAKSHI I. MEHTA, J.(Oral)**

The petitioner herein seeks the relief of anticipatory bail in the criminal case arisen out of FIR No.27 dated 13.03.2023 registered at Police Station Bhargo Camp, Police Commissionerate, Jalandhar under Sections 306, 304-B and 498-A read with Section 34 IPC.

2.             Bereft of unnecessary details, the allegations, as levelled by complainant-Mohan Singh Tomar in the subject FIR, are that his daughter Laxmi (since deceased and here-in-after to be referred as the 'victim') had performed the marriage with Rahul Verma, the son of the petitioner and thereafter, she had been residing with her husband and his family members at her matrimonial home. However, her (victim's) above-named husband and the petitioner used to harass, abuse and give beatings to her so as to pressurise her to bring money from her parents. During the intervening

night of 11/12 March, 2023, the victim called him on his mobile-phone at about 1.00 AM and disclosed that she was being given beatings and at that time, he assured her that they would visit her matrimonial home within two days to sort out the issue but on the next morning itself, he was informed by his son-in-law Rahul that the victim was lying on the bed and was not responding to him and subsequently, he (Rahul) again intimated him on his mobile-phone that the victim had committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling fan. Thus, the victim had ended her life because of getting fed up with her constant maltreatment and harassment at the hands of her husband and the petitioner.

3.            Today, learned State counsel has submitted the Status-Report on behalf of the respondent-State (by way of the affidavit of the Assistant Commissioner of Police West, Jalandhar) in the Court and the same has been taken on the record.

4.            I have heard learned counsel for the petitioner as well as learned State counsel in the present petition and have also perused the file carefully.

5.            Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the victim has not left any suicide-note behind her, from where the actual/real cause of her death could be ascertained/known and during her lifetime, she never made any complaint to the police regarding her having, allegedly, been harassed and maltreated by the petitioner and moreover, no specific allegations have been levelled against the petitioner in the FIR and in these circumstances, he (petitioner) deserves the relief, as prayed for in the instant petition.

6. Per contra, learned State counsel argues that the victim lost her life just within six months of her marriage with the son of the petitioner and there are specific allegations against the petitioner even in the subject FIR itself and keeping in view the nature of the offence committed in this case, the present petition be dismissed.

7. The afore-raised contentions qua the victim having not left any suicide-note or having never moved any complaint to the Police earlier regarding the alleged harassment and maltreatment meted out to her by the petitioner and no specific allegation having been levelled against the petitioner in the FIR, can and shall be looked into and adjudicated upon by the trial Court at the appropriate stage after appreciating and evaluating the evidence that may be led on the record, during the course of the trial and the same cannot be decided while dealing with the instant bail petition.

8. Keeping in view the above-discussed facts and circumstances as well as the gravity of the offence as alleged to have been committed by the petitioner, this Court is of the considered opinion that he (petitioner) does not deserve the relief of anticipatory/pre-arrest bail. Resultantly, the petition in hand stands dismissed accordingly.

**September 05, 2023**  
pooja

**(MEENAKSHI I. MEHTA)**  
**JUDGE**

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