

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

228

2023:PHHC:104390

CRM-M-27243-2023

Date of decision: August 10th, 2023

Akshina Sauhta

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

Present : Mr. Rajat Khanna, Mr. Aditya Pratap Singh,
Mr. Vijay Pratap Singh and Mr. Vishal Saini, Advocates
for the petitioner.

Mr. Adhiraj Singh, Assistant Advocate General, Punjab.

Mr. Inderpreet Singh and Mr. Pranav Chadha, Advocates
for the complainant.

MANJARI NEHRU KAUL, J.

Prayer in this petition is for grant of bail to the petitioner
in case FIR No.218 dated 17.10.2019 under Sections 406, 420, 120-B
of the IPC registered at Police Station Phase-1, S.A.S. Nagar.

Learned counsel for the petitioner, while drawing the
attention of this Court to the allegations levelled in the FIR, submits
that the only role attributed to the petitioner was that she had
introduced the complainant to co-accused Ankit Chahal. Learned
counsel submits that allegedly co-accused and the complainant, after
being introduced by the petitioner, were to start a restaurant namely
Moksh.

Learned counsel has submitted that whatever transpired
thereafter was between co-accused Ankit Chahal and complainant and
the petitioner had no role to play thereafter. Learned counsel has

she was arrested on 01.05.2023, investigation is complete and challan stands presented. It has also been submitted that the petitioner has clean antecedents and is not involved in any other case.

Per contra, learned State counsel, assisted by learned counsel for the complainant, has vehemently opposed the prayer and submissions made by the counsel opposite. It has been submitted that the co-accused misappropriated a total amount of ₹45 lakh which was given by the complainant. Out of which ₹35 lakh was paid through cheque while the remaining was in cash. Still further, an amount of ₹3,93,000/- was given by co-accused Ankit Chahal to the petitioner by way of her commission. They have thus submitted that it was evident that she was also an active participant in the crime in question and had played a fraud upon the complainant.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the relevant material on record.

The petitioner has been in custody since 01.05.2023 and there is no likelihood of the trial concluding in near future as charges are likely to be framed only on the next date of hearing. It is a matter of record that co-accused Ankit Chahal, who had entered into an agreement with the complainant to start their business and who had allegedly obtained money in the sum of ₹45 lakh from the complainant, has since been extended the concession of bail.

In the facts and circumstances as enumerated hereinabove, this Court deems it fit to extend the concession of bail to the petitioner. The petition is, therefore, allowed. The petitioner be

admitted to bail to the satisfaction of the Trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned. However, it is made clear that anything observed hereinabove shall not be construed to be an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

August 10th, 2023
Puneet

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether reportable : Yes/No