

REETU RANI **..PETITIONER**
VERSUS

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIVEK PURI

Ms. Ruchika Sabherwal, DAG, Punjab.

1. Custody certificate of the petitioner has been circulated today and the same is taken on record.

2. Reetu Rani-petitioner is seeking regular bail in the case bearing FIR No.76 dated 14.07.2022 under Sections 304-B/34 IPC, registered at Police Station Shimlapuri, District Ludhiana.

3. Briefly, as per the allegations, the marriage of the deceased was solemnized with the brother of the petitioner in the year 2017 and a son has been born from the wedlock. It was a love marriage. The allegations against the petitioner and other accused are to the effect that they had been harassing and demanding dowry and maltreating the deceased on that score. The husband of the deceased had been asking her to bring Rs.2,00,000/- from her father for the business of his electrical goods. On 13.07.2022, the deceased has committed suicide by hanging herself.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner is a married sister-in-law of the deceased. The marriage of the petitioner was solemnized in the year 2013 i.e about 04 years prior to the marriage of the deceased and she is residing in the house of her in-laws at Panipat. The petitioner

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had no interference in the matrimonial affairs of her brother and the deceased. There are vague and bald allegations levelled against the petitioner with regard to demand of dowry without specifying any article regarding which any such demand was allegedly raised. The petitioner is in custody for a period of 01 year, 01 month and 12 days and not involved in any other case.

5. Learned State counsel has opposed the bail application on the score that the petitioner had been specifically named in the FIR and furthermore, out of 10, no witness has been examined till date.

6. It is significant to note that the petitioner is a married sister-in-law of the deceased. Her marriage was solemnized about 04 years prior to the marriage of the deceased with her brother. The petitioner is stated to be residing in the house of her in-laws in Panipat. Even, no article has been specified regarding which the petitioner had raised demand. The petitioner is in custody for a period of 01 year, 01 month and 12 days and not involved in any other case. Till date, no witness has been examined. The conclusion of trial is likely to take sometime. No fruitful purpose will be served by detaining the petitioner in further custody. As such, sufficient mitigating circumstances are made out to extend the concession of bail to the petitioner.

7. Without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, the instant petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on her furnishing requisite bail bonds to the satisfaction of the learned trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

8. The petition is allowed accordingly.

28.08.2023

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(VIVEK PURI)
JUDGE