

2023:PHHC:161407

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

CRA-S-2512-2023 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 15.12.2023

**MANISH KHATTAR @ MANISH ... APPELLANT
VS.**

STATE OF HARYANA .. RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIVEK PURI

Present : Mr. Raghav Gulati, Advocate,
for the appellant.

Mr. Surinder Kumar Dagar, DAG, Haryana.

VIVEK PURI, J.(ORAL)

1. The appellant has assailed the order dated 15.03.2023 passed by the Court of learned Additional Sessions Judge, Gurugram vide which his application for regular bail has been dismissed.

2. Custody certificate has been placed on record.

3. Briefly, as per the allegations of the prosecution, the victim, who is aged about 17 years, was working as a maid in the house of the petitioner. The petitioner alongwith wife had been treating her inhumanly. There are allegations to the effect that the appellant had been causing sexual harassment. During the course of trial, the victim has not supported the prosecution version.

4. Learned State counsel has opposed the bail application on the score that there are serious allegations with regard to sexual harassment and inflicting injuries on the person of the victim attributed against the appellant.

5. Although, serious allegations with regard to causing sexual harassment have been attributed against the appellant but significantly

during the course of trial, the prosecutrix has not supported the prosecution version. It is categoric and specific statement of the victim to the effect that she was neither beaten nor tortured by the appellant and his wife. She has further deposed to the effect that they had kept her nicely and had nothing more to say in the case. Moreover, the appellant is in custody for a period of 10 months and 02 days and not involved in any other case. The conclusion of trial is likely to take some time and no fruitful purpose will be served by detaining the appellant in further custody.

6. In such circumstances, sufficient grounds are made out to extend the concession of bail to the appellant.

7. Accordingly, without making any observation on the merits of the case, the present appeal is allowed and appellant is ordered to be released on bail, subject to his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of concerned trial Court/Chief Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate.

15.12.2023
smriti

(VIVEK PURI)
JUDGE

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