

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
CRIMINAL MISCELLANEOUS No.16068 of 2024

Arising Out of PS. Case No.-116 Year-2023 Thana- SAKATPUR District- Darbhanga

Manohar Lal @ Manoj Kumar Chaudhary S/O Gopal Lal @ Gopal Chaudhary R/O Village- Ujan, P.S- Sakatpur, Distt.- Darbhanga.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

The State of Bihar

... .. Opposite Party/s

Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s : Mr. Bhavesh Sah, Adv

For the Opposite Party/s : Mr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, APP

CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE CHANDRA PRAKASH SINGH

ORAL ORDER

2 12-03-2024 Heard learned counsel for the petitioner and learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the State.

2. The Petitioner is apprehending his arrest in connection with Sakatpur P.S. Case No. 116 of 2023 dated 19.12.2023 of the offences punishable u/s 30(a) of the Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act 2018.

3. As per the prosecution case, total 226.365 litres of illicit foreign liquor was recovered from the *truck*.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the petitioner is innocent and has falsely been implicated in this case. The petitioner has no criminal antecedent as stated at para 3 of the bail petition. The name of the petitioner was disclosed by the local villagers. The petitioner is not the owner



of the said vehicle and the same was not being driven by the petitioner at the time of the alleged recovery. No incriminating article has been recovered from the conscious possession of the petitioner, hence no case is made out. Learned Counsel has relied on the judgment of Full Bench of Hon'ble Patna High Court in the case of **Ram Vinay Yadav vs. State of Bihar reported in 2019 (2) PLJR 1089**. The Full Bench in the case of **Ram Vinay Yadav (supra)** has held that an application for anticipatory bail in a case arising out of Bihar Excise and Prohibition Act can be maintained, despite the bar under Section 76 (2) of the Act, if on the basis of allegation made in the FIR, no offence under the said provision is made out.

5. Learned A.P.P. for the State has vehemently opposed the prayer for anticipatory bail of the petitioner by submitting that the bar of Section 76(2) of the Act applies in this case.

6. Considering the aforesaid facts and circumstances of the case as well as the nature of allegation against the petitioner, let the above named petitioner, in the event of his arrest/surrender within a period of six weeks from today, be enlarged on anticipatory bail on furnishing bail-bond of Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand) with two sureties of the like



amount each to the satisfaction of the learned court concerned, Darbhanga in connection with Sakatpur P.S. Case No. 116 of 2023 subject to conditions as laid down under section 438(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

7. This application stands allowed.

(Chandra Prakash Singh, J)

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