



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

CRM-M No.18977 of 2024
Date of decision: 21st May, 2024

Laila Laskar

... Petitioner

Versus

Intelligence Officer, Directorate of Revenue, Amritsar

... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

Present: Mr. Satnam S. Thakur & Mr. Nittin Mittoo,
Advocates for the petitioner.

Ms. Shivani Sahani, Advocate for
Mr. Sourabh Goel, Advocate for the respondent.

MANJARI NEHRU KAUL, J.

1. The petitioner is seeking the concession of bail under Section 439 Cr.P.C. in Complaint No.NDPS/1321/2023 dated 03.11.2023 registered under Sections 8, 21(c), 23(c), 27A, 28, 29, 60, 61 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (hereinafter referred to as, 'the Act') filed in the Court of learned Additional Sessions Judge, Amritsar.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that she is completely innocent and has been falsely implicated in the present case. It has been argued by the learned counsel that the petitioner is in no way connected with the alleged recovery of 5 kgs 430 grams of Heroin, which was allegedly recovered by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence; rather the petitioner has been deceived by her husband i.e.



co-accused Abdul Salam who was running an export firm by the name of M/s Capital Import Export Limited. It has also been urged by the learned counsel that the petitioner has no criminal antecedents which also lends credence to her false implication; she has been in custody since 09.05.2023 and though charges have been framed, there is no likelihood of the trial concluding in the near future hence, she be extended the concession of bail.

3. Per contra, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the Intelligence Officer, Directorate of Revenue, has vehemently opposed the prayer and submissions made by the counsel opposite, by urging that the petitioner is the wife of Abdul Salam, who is the prime accused in the instant case. A consignment of “Afghan Brooms” was intercepted by the Customs and 5.48 kgs of Heroin was found concealed within. This consignment was registered in the name of the petitioner’s husband, who has a history of being involved in cases under the NDPS Act. It has been argued by the learned counsel for the respondent that the petitioner and her husband had been actively involved in the smuggling of Heroin from Afghanistan via Pakistan and the Atari Border into India. The petitioner collected the consignment containing the recovered Heroin, and both she and her husband were arrested together. Their statements were also recorded under Section 67 of the NDPS Act



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

5. Prima facie, there are serious allegations against the petitioner qua her involvement in a drug syndicate with her husband, Abdul Salam, who stands convicted in one more case under the NDPS Act. Allegedly, prime accused Abdul Salam, while on parole, married the petitioner and procured an ID card with the West Bengal address, and both, the petitioner along with her husband, i.e. the prime accused, had been frequently going to the Atari Border for their smuggling operations. The trial, as per the learned counsel for the respondent, has been going on at the reasonably good pace. The next date of hearing fixed before the trial Court is 05.07.2024 when the prosecution evidence is likely to commence.

6. In the facts and circumstances as enumerated hereinabove, this Court thus does not deem it fit to extend the concession of bail to the petitioner. The petition as such is dismissed. 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.

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

May 21, 2024
rps

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