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

**CRWP-276-2025
DATE OF DECISION: 14.01.2025**

MANJO DEVI ..PETITIONER

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB AND ORS ... RESPONDENTS

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANDEEP MOUDGIL

Present: Mr. Sunil Kumar Pandey, Advocate with
Ms. Geeta Rani, Advocate for the petitioner.
Mr. Jaspal Singh Guru, AAG, Punjab.

SANDEEP MOUDGIL, J (ORAL)

This petition has been filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for the issuance of writ in the nature of Habeas Corpus and for appointment of Warrant Officer, with a roving writ to search for the detenue namely Neha aged about 20 years 9 months 10 days, daughter-in-law of the petitioner, from the illegal custody of the private respondent No. 4, forthwith or at any other place to be pointed out by the petitioner at the spot and get the detenue released from the illegal custody of the private respondent No. 4 forthwith and be produced before this Court.

In compliance to the previous order dated 10.01.2025 whereby warrant officer namely Mr. Mahipal Walia was appointed has submitted its report which reads as under :-

‘The Petitioner (Monjo Devi) and her Associates met me near the gate Police Station, Dehlon and she told the undersigned that search is to be carried out at the residence of

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Sachin Kumar (Respondent No.4). 1 alongwith Petitioner and her Associates reached at Police Station, Dehlon 04:40 PM. The SHO Mr. Kawaljit Singh (Mob: 7837018626), Mr. Ranjit Singh, ASI, (Mob: 9877835565) and other officials were present there.

2) After disclosing my identity and purpose of visit, I requested the SHO to provide some Police Officials alongwith lady Police Official/s as the raid is to be conducted in the private house of someone. Accordingly, the SHO provided Police Officials namely ASI, Ranjit Singh and lady constable Ms. Saroja Begum and others Police Officials.

3) Further, I alongwith Police Party, Petitioner and her Associates reached at the spot and conducted the search of detainee (Neha) at Cheema Bhatta village Kalath. During search Manjo Devi (Petitioner) identified Neha (detenue) who was found in the Jhungi (Slum) of Respondent No.4 Sachin Kumar. At the relevant time Respondent No.4 (Sachin Kumar) and Mother of detainee-Neha Pinki were also present there.

4] The undersigned asked ASI, Ranjit Singh to take into the custody all relevant persons i.e. Neha (detenue) her Mother (Pinki) and her Step-Father (Sachin Kumar).

5) On my asking to detainee-Neha has replied that she wishes to go with her Mother-in-law Manjo Devi (Petitioner). She doesn't want to live with her Step-Father and Mother.

6) Further, on reaching back in the Police Station undersigned has recorded the statement of Neha (detenue) (original copy at Annexure- A) in the presence of SHO Mr. Kawaljit Singh, Mr. Ranjit Singh, ASI, which is reproduced hereunder for kind perusal of His Lordship:

Statement of Neha w/o Ajay r/o (presently VPO Kailpur, P.S Mullanpur Dakha, Distt. Ludhiana (Punjab).

'It is stated that my step-father Sachin and my mother Pinky have forcibly kept me detained in house. I was beaten a lot. The police caught me from the brick kiln AAC kiln and



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handed me over to my step-father and my mother. This incident is of 10.11.2024. Today i.e. on 13.01.2025, the Warrant Officer, together with the police, recovered me from the house of my step-father and mother and brought me to the police station. After coming there, now I want to go to my matrimonial home. My step-father and mother want to sell me somewhere. I want to go with my mother-in-law Manjo Devi at my own free will and happily.'

7 Further, the undersigned has recorded the Statement of Petitioner-Manjo Devi (original copy at Annexure-B), in the presence of above said Police Officer/official which is reproduced hereunder for kind perusal of His Lordship:

The said report is also accompanied by statement of alleged detainee namely Neha which reads as 'I have come with my own free will and without any coercion and willing to go with Manjo Devi-mother in law. She categorically submits that she does not want to go along with her step father and mother. Accordingly, the warrant officer has handed over the custody of alleged detainee to mother in law-Manjo Devi. The statement to that effect of Manjo Devi stands recorded by warrant officer which reads as under :-

'Statement of Manjo Devi w/o Ashok Kumar r/o VPO-Kailpur, P.S Mullanpur Dhaka, District Ludhiana.

It is stated that I had filed CRWP No.276 of 2025 in Hon'ble High Court, Chandigarh for getting released my daughter-in-law from the custody of her step-father and mother. According to the order of Hon'ble High Court, Warrant Officer Sh. Mahipal Walia being accompanied by me and police, conducted raid at house of Respondent No.4 and brought my



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daughter-in-law Neha at police station, where he handed over her to me with her consent. I am taking away Neha to my house .’

In light of the above, nothing survives in the present petition. Accordingly, the same is disposed of as having been rendered infructuous.

(SANDEEP MOUDGIL)
JUDGE

14.01.2025
anuradha

<i>Whether speaking/reasoned</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>
<i>Whether reportable</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>