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

CRM-M-40491-2023 (O&M)

Date of Decision:- 05.03.2025

Vikram Malhotra

....Petitioner

Vs.

State of Haryana and another

...Respondents

CORAM:- HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE AMARJOT BHATTI

Present:- Mr. Ashit Malik, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms. Aditi Girdhar, AAG, Haryana.

Mr. Tarun Hans, Advocate
for respondent No. 2.

AMARJOT BHATTI, J.(Oral)

1. Petitioner Vikram Malhotra has filed anticipatory bail petition under Section 438 of Cr.P.C. in case FIR No. 614 dated 01.07.2023 under Section 323, 34, 406, 498A, 506 of IPC registered at Police Station HTM Hisar, District Hisar.

2. Facts of the case are complainant Nidhi filed written complaint against her husband and in-laws' family alleging that she got married with Vikram on 11.11.2021. Prior to marriage, ring ceremony took place on 03.08.2021 and costly gifts were given to relatives. Accused persons pressurized the parents of complainant to solemnize marriage with great pomp and show. The mediator informed accused persons that since it



marriage. Father of complainant spent money on her marriage beyond his capacity. He gave dowry articles as her istridhan. Her father spent Rs. 15 lacs for giving jewellery to bride, household articles, cash, shagun to relatives as well as to husband and members of in-laws family. Her parents had given Rs. 1 lac for purchasing Sofa set, LED TV, Window AC, Oven, Dinner Set, Washing Machine etc. List of dowry articles was annexed with application. After marriage, accused persons started harassing her that her parents had insulted them in society as everybody was making fun of said marriage. Complainant has narrated various incidents which took place in matrimonial home. She was told to get slim. There was demand for a car. She was beaten up in matrimonial home and was confined in a room. Several Panchayats were convened to settle the dispute. Husband and his family had no desire to resolve the issue. Ultimately, on the aforesaid complaint, present FIR has been registered.

3. Learned counsel for petitioner argued that petitioner has already joined investigation in pursuance of order dated 18.08.2023. Mediation has already failed. He has already returned LED TV and a Dinner Set. He is still ready to join investigation as and when required. Therefore, anticipatory bail petition filed by petitioner may be allowed.

4. On the other hand, bail petition is strongly opposed by learned counsel representing respondent No. 2. It is pointed out that there are specific serious allegations against the petitioner. Complainant is still ready and willing to live in matrimonial home, but it is the petitioner who is not ready to keep his wife. All dowry articles are still lying in matrimonial

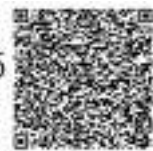
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home. Therefore, petitioner is not entitled to be released on anticipatory bail.

5. Status report dated 12.12.2023 is filed, confirming that petitioner has joined investigation on 26.10.2023. However, there are specific serious allegations against petitioner. He subjected complainant to cruelty and also gave her beating. It is further pointed out that he did not cooperate with investigating agency for the recovery of dowry articles. In subsequent status report dated 18.01.2025, it is pointed out that petitioner again joined investigation on 13.02.2024, 04.08.2024, 21.08.2024 and only one LED TV make LG, one lead, remote and one Dinner Set have been recovered. Petitioner has not handed over other dowry articles i.e. almirah, gold jewellery, silver ornaments etc. In status report, it is confirmed that complainant has produced photocopies of bills regarding purchase of LED, AC, Fridge, Washing Machine and said bills were found to be genuine. Learned counsel representing State opposed anticipatory bail petition as dowry articles are yet to be recovered.

6. I have considered the arguments and have gone through the record carefully. Petitioner was granted interim bail by the Coordinate Bench vide order dated 18.08.2023 and till date interim relief has been extended from time to time. Matter was also referred before Mediation and Conciliation Centre but it remained unsettled. Today, petitioner as well as respondent No. 2/complainant are present in Court but no mutual consensus could be arrived at.



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Learned counsel representing State confirmed that petitioner joined investigation as referred above in status reports filed on two occasions but he did not cooperate with investigating agency for recovery of dowry articles. During this entire period, one LED TV, one lead, remote and one Dinner Set has been recovered. For the purpose of complete investigation, recovery of dowry articles is material. Considering the conduct of present petitioner as referred above, I am not inclined to grant anticipatory bail to petitioner and his anticipatory bail petition is accordingly, dismissed.

7. Pending miscellaneous application(s), if any, stand disposed of accordingly as well.

05.03.2025

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(AMARJOT BHATTI)
JUDGE

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