



CRM-M-61285-2025 (O&M) -1-

(237) IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-61285-2025 (O&M)
Date of decision : 22.12.2025

RAMAVATI

... Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA (ORAL)

Present: Mr. A.P. Kaushal, Advocate,
Ms. Pallavi Bahre, Advocate for the petitioner

Mr. Roshandeep Singh, AAG, Punjab

MANISHA BATRA, J. (ORAL)

1. The instant petition has been filed by the petitioner under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (*for short "BNSS"*) seeking grant of regular bail in case arising out of FIR No.233 dated 10.09.2023 registered under Sections 302, 148 and 149 of IPC registered at Police Station Sahnewal, District Ludhiana.

2. As per the allegations, on 10.09.2023, on receipt of an information regarding death of one Manti Devi having taken place at Govt. College and Hospital, Sector 32, Chandigarh, a police party reached there and recorded statement of the complainant Lalan Shah to the effect that on 07.09.2023, the petitioner and the co-accused had extended beatings to him and his wife. His wife had managed to escape

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and rushed inside their house. The petitioner and others had left as several people gathered at the spot. Then on 08.09.2023, the petitioner along with Kiran and accused Archana came outside her house. They were accompanied by one unknown youth. They started assaulting the complainant and extended beatings to him. The petitioner dragged the victim outside the gate of the house and then all of them started inflicting injuries on the person of his wife with sticks. They also gave kicks to her. The son of the complainant raised rescue alarm. On hearing, several persons were attracted at the spot and then the assailants fled away. The victim was taken to the hospital and had died during the course of treatment. While alleging that the petitioner along with the co-accused had committed murder of his wife by inflicting serious injuries on her person, he prayed for taking action in the matter. On his statement, the aforementioned FIR was registered. Investigation proceedings were initiated. The petitioner was arrested on 16.12.2024. The co-accused were also arrested. Presently she along with co-accused is facing trial for commission of aforementioned offences.

3. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that she has been falsely implicated in this case. There is delay of three days in reporting the matter to the police which has not been explained and which has created a doubt in the prosecution story. Neither the complainant nor eye witnesses i.e. PW-2 Laddu and PW-3 Badal Kumar had supported the prosecution case. The trial is likely to take time to conclude. Her further detention would not serve any useful purpose.

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With these broad submissions, it is urged that she deserves to be released on bail.

4. Status report has been filed. It is argued by learned State counsel that there are serious and specific allegations against the petitioner which are grave in nature. It is urged that keeping in view the gravity thereof the petitioner does not deserve to be extended benefit of bail.

5. This Court has heard the rival submissions made by the counsel for both the parties at considerable length.

6. The petitioner by forming membership of an unlawful assembly with the co-accused is alleged to have opened an assault upon the victim Manti Devi on 07.09.2023 and 08.09.2023 and is alleged to have caused her homicidal death. The complainant Lalan Shah has, however, appeared before learned trial Court as PW-1. Copy of his statement has been placed on record as Annexure P-3 and a perusal of the same reveals that he did not implicate the petitioner in commission of offence of murder of the victim. Rather he is shown to have stated that some unknown persons had entered inside his house and had inflicted injuries on the person of his wife leading to her death. Similarly, PW-2 Laddu Kumar, brother of the victim is also not shown to have supported the prosecution case. Annexure P-5 is a photocopy of sworn deposition got recorded by PW-3 Badal Kumar son of the complainant as well as victim. He too is shown to have stated that his mother had sustained injuries at the hands of some unknown persons and not by the present petitioner and the co-accused. As such, it emerges that material witnesses

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have not supported the version of the prosecution to the effect that the petitioner was one amongst the persons who had caused homicidal death of the victim. The petitioner is in custody since long. Only 06 out of 15 prosecution witnesses have been examined. The trial will take time to conclude. The petitioner is in custody for a period of over one year. His further incarceration would not serve any useful purpose.

7. Keeping in view the nature of evidence which has come on record, the period of incarceration of the petitioner and the above discussed facts and circumstances but without meaning to make any comment on the merits of the case, lest the same prejudices the trial, this Court is of the opinion that the petitioner deserves to be released on bail. Accordingly, the petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on his furnishing personal as well as surety bonds to the satisfaction of the learned trial Court/Chief Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate concerned and on the following conditions :-

(i) The petitioner shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case or tamper with the evidence of the case in any manner whatsoever.

(ii) The petitioner shall not leave the country under any circumstance without permission of the learned trial Court.

(iii) The petitioner shall appear before the learned trial Court as and when directed.

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(iv) The petitioner shall provide her address where she would be residing after release and shall not change the same without informing the concerned IO/SHO.

(v) The petitioner shall upon her release give her mobile phone number to concerned IO/SHO and shall keep his mobile phone switched on all times.

(vi) The petitioner shall surrender her passport, if any, furnish details of his cell phone, PAN Card and Aadhaar card, and shall not change her mobile number(s) during the pendency of the trial.

8. Since the main petition has been allowed, pending application, if any, is rendered infructuous.

(MANISHA BATRA)
JUDGE

22.12.2025
Amit Sharma

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