IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
CRIMINAL MISCELLANEOUS No.77770 of 2026

CNR No. BRHC011106952026

Arising Out of PS. Case No.-157 Year-2026 Thana- KATIHAR NAGAR District- Katihar

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1. Sulochna Devi Wife of Ashok Mandal R/o- Marocha, P.S.- Pranpur, District- Katihar.
2. Lalita Devi Wife of Late Sanjay Kumar Sah R/o- Magurjan, P.S.- Dandkhora, District- Katihar.

... ... Petitioner/s

Versus

The State of Bihar

... ... Opposite Party/s

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Appearance :
For the Petitioner/s : Mr.Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Adv.
For the Opposite Party/s : Mr.Tarkeshwar Nath Thakur, APP

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CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ALOK KUMAR SINHA

ORAL ORDER

2 05-11-2026 Heard learned counsel for the petitioners and learned A.P.P. for the State.

2. The petitioners apprehend their arrest in connection with Katihar Nagar P.S. Case No. 157 of 2026, registered for the offence punishable under Sections 132, 223,318(4), 3(5) of BNS.

3. The prosecution case, in short is that, petitioners along with others were indulging in corrupt practices of misleading the patients and attempting to take them to private clinic without authorization.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the petitioners are innocent and have committed no offence. They have falsely been implicated in the present case. He further

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submits that the petitioners have falsely been implicated in the present case due to local politics and ulterior motive. There is no specific allegation against the petitioners to either misled to the patient or obstructing the scheme provided by the Government. The petitioners bear no criminal antecedent.

5. Learned A.P.P. for the State opposes the prayer of anticipatory bail.

6. The allegation against the petitioners, as it appears from the FIR, is that they along with others was indulging in corrupt practices of misleading the patients and persuading them to visit private clinic without authorization. As Asha workers, they were expected to provide all help and cooperation to the patients, so that they could take benefits of the public welfare schemes, but instead of doing that, they were indulging in corrupt practices. However, in the FIR, it has not been alleged that any patient ever come forward to name the petitioners of indulging in any corrupt practices or of misleading the patient and admitting to take them to private clinic. The allegation against the petitioners, therefore, remains general in nature without any iota of corroboration by any patient. The petitioners also bear clean antecedent. Another co-accused, namely, Sulekha Devi, has already been granted anticipatory bail by order dated 04.11.2026 passed in Cr. Misc. No. 76620 of 2026.

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7. Under these circumstances, this Court is inclined to grant privilege of anticipatory bail to the petitioner.

8. Let the petitioners, named above, in the event of their arrest or surrender before the Court below within four weeks from today, be released on bail on furnishing bail bond of Rs.10,000/- (Ten thousand) each with two sureties of the like amount each to the satisfaction of the learned Chief Judicial Magistrate, Katihar in connection with Katihar Nagar P.S. Case No. 157 of 2026, subject to the conditions laid down under section 482(2) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and subject to the further condition that:-

(i) the petitioners shall co-operate in the investigation/trial.

(ii) the learned Court would, however, verify the criminal antecedent of the petitioners and in case it is found that the petitioners have concealed their criminal antecedent, the Court below shall take step for cancellation of bail bond of the petitioners. However, it is expected that the verification process would be done expeditiously without causing any delay.

(Alok Kumar Sinha, J)

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