IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
Criminal Appeal (S.J.) No.941 of 2026

Gautam Kumar Singh, aged about 29 years, S/o Sudhir Singh, R/o Near Durga Mandir, Village-Sondh, P.O. Sandi, P.S. Rajrappa, District-Ramgarh, Jharkhand **…. …. Appellant(s)**

-Versus-

1. The State of Jharkhand
2. XXX (Victim) **…. …. Respondent(s)**

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH KUMAR

For the Appellant : Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, Advocate
For the State : Mr. Bishambhar Shastri, A.P.P.

03/Dated: 03.11.2026

1. Heard the parties.

2. The present criminal appeal has been filed against the order dated 13.08.2026 passed in M.C.A No.342 of 2026 by the learned Additional Sessions Judge-1-cum-Special Judge, SC/ST Act, Lohardaga in connection with Lohardaga Mahila P.S. Case No.16 of 2026, registered for the offence under Sections 69, 351(3), 3(5), 49 of the B.N.S, 2023. Later vide order dated 21.07.2026 Sections 3(2)(v), 3(1)(w)(i) & 3(1)(w)(ii) of the SC/ST (PoA) Act has been added. The case is now pending in the court of the learned Additional Sessions Judge-1-cum-Special Judge, SC/ST Act, Lohardaga.

3. It has been submitted by the learned counsel for the appellant that both the parties are major and it is nothing but a consensual relationship. Mere non-performance of marriage cannot be a ground for institution of criminal a case. It has further been submitted that the appellant is in custody since 16.07.2026 and he undertakes to participate in the trial. On the above basis, prayer for bail has been made.

4. Learned counsel for the State has opposed the prayer for bail. It has been submitted that the victim has been duped by applying the vermillion. Thus, a member of weaker section of the society has been exploited by this appellant.

5. Since both the parties are major and it is nothing but dispute regarding the relationship, the appellant named above, is directed to be released on bail, on his furnishing bail bond of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten

Thousand) with two sureties of like amount each to the satisfaction of the learned Additional Sessions Judge-1-cum-Special Judge, SC/ST Act, Lohardaga in connection with Lohardaga Mahila P.S. Case No.16 of 2026, subject to the condition that the appellant will submit self-attested photocopy of his Aadhaar Card and also submit his mobile number before the learned trial court which he shall always keep active and will not change it during pendency of the case without prior permission of the Court.

6. In the result, the present criminal appeal stands allowed and accordingly disposed of.

7. It is hereby clarified that the observation made hereinabove is only for the purpose of bail of this appellant.

(Rajesh Kumar, J.)

Dated: 03.11.2026
Pawan/-Uploaded on 04.11.2026