IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

ABLAPL No. 10486 of 2026

CNR No. ODHC010692582026

Lochan Pradhan …. ***Petitioner***

Mr. S.R. Panda, Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha …. ***Opposite Party***

Mr. A.K. Pati, ASC

CORAM: JUSTICE V. NARASINGH

ORDER

09.11.2026

Order No.

03. 1. Heard learned counsel for the Petitioner and learned counsel for the State.

2. The Petitioner is seeking pre-arrest bail in connection with G.R. Case No.1785 of 2024, pending on the file of learned S.D.J.M., Keonjhar arising out of Keonjhar Sadar P.S. Case No.590 of 2024 for commission of offences punishable under Section 103(1)/85 of BNS, 2023.

3. It is submitted by the learned counsel for the Petitioner that even if the entire allegations are accepted at its face value, no offence under Section 103(1) of BNS is made out and in this context reference is made to the enquiry made in Keonjhar Sadar P.S. U.D. Case No.65 of 2024 as well as the inquest report.

4. Referring to the materials on record, learned counsel for the State oppose the prayer for pre-arrest bail and submits that even accepting the submission of the learned counsel for the Petitioner-the husband, that the offence under Section 103(1) is not made out, there is sufficient materials on record to indicate that the deceased consumed poison because of the conduct of the Petitioner as she was subjected to both physical and mental torture.

5. Considering the rival submissions and taking into account the materials on record, this Court is not inclined to entertain this application for pre-arrest bail. However, Petitioner may surrender before the learned S.D.J.M., Keonjhar in connection with the aforementioned case within one month from today.

In the event of his surrender and motion for bail, the same be considered by the learned S.D.J.M., Keonjhar on merits, in the first hour of the day.

In the event of rejection of the prayer for bail by the learned S.D.J.M., Keonjhar, the Petitioner is at liberty to move the higher forum for bail in the second hour on the same day.

6. On being so moved, the higher forum is requested to make an endeavor to dispose of the bail application of the Petitioner on the same day.

The case diary shall be made available to the concerned courts to facilitate disposal of the bail application of the Petitioner and learned S.D.J.M.,

Keonjhar is called upon to transmit the case record to the higher forum at the earliest in the event of rejection of such bail application.

7. Accordingly, the ABLAPL stands disposed of. U.C.C. as per rules.

(V. NARASINGH)
Judge

Ayesha

Signature Not Verified
Digitally Signed
Signed by: AYESHA ROUT
Reason: Authentication
Location: High Court of Orissa, Cuttack
Date: 10-Nov-2026 17:39:04