

2023 SCC OnLine Guj 2727

In the High Court of Gujarat at Ahmedabad  
(BEFORE HASMUKH D. SUTHAR, J.)

Prajapati Tejas Bharatbhai

*Versus*

State of Gujarat

R/Criminal Misc. Application No. 15218 of 2023

Decided on August 29, 2023

Advocates who appeared in this case :

Mr. Ashish M. Dagli(2203) for the Applicant(s) No. 1

Mr. L.B. Dabhi, App for the Respondent(s) No. 1

The Order of the Court was delivered by

HASMUKH D. SUTHAR, J.:— RULE. Learned APP waives service of notice of Rule on behalf of the respondent-State.

2. By way of the present application under Section 438 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, the applicant accused has prayed to release him on anticipatory bail in the event of his arrest in connection with the FIR being C.R. No. 11210015230082 of 2023 with DCB Police Station, Surat City for the offences punishable under Sections 418, 419, 420, 34 and 120(B) of the Penal Code, 1860 and under Sections 66 and 66D of the I.T. Act.

3. Learned advocate for the applicant submits that the applicant has nothing to do with the offence and he is falsely implicated on the basis of the statement of the co-accused. It is further submitted that he incident took place on 09.12.2020 whereas the FIR lodged on 19.05.2023. Learned advocate for the applicant submits that the nature of allegations are such for which custodial interrogation at this stage is not necessary. Besides, the applicant is available during the course of investigation and will not fee from justice. In view of the above, the applicant may be granted anticipatory bail.

4. Learned advocate for the applicant, on instructions, states that the applicant is ready and willing to abide by all the conditions including imposition of conditions with regard to powers of Investigating Agency to file an application before the competent Court for his remand. He would further submit that upon filing of such application by the Investigating Agency, the right of applicant accused to oppose such application on merits may be kept open.

5. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing on behalf of the respondent - State has opposed grant of anticipatory bail looking to the

nature and gravity of the offence.

6. Having heard the learned advocate for the parties and perusing the investigation papers, it is equally incumbent upon the Court to exercise its discretion judiciously, cautiously and strictly in compliance with the basic principles laid down in a plethora of decisions of the Hon'ble Apex Court on the point. It is well settled that, among other circumstances, the factors to be borne in mind while considering an application for bail are (i) whether there is any prima facie or reasonable ground to believe that the accused had committed the offence; (ii) nature and gravity of the accusation; (iii) severity of the punishment in the event of conviction; (iv) danger of the accused absconding or fleeing, if released on bail; (v) character, behaviour, means, position and standing of the accused; (vi) likelihood of the offence being repeated; (vii) reasonable apprehension of the witnesses being influenced; and (viii) danger, of course, of justice being thwarted by grant of bail. Though at the stage of granting bail an elaborate examination of evidence and detailed reasons touching the merit of the case, which may prejudice the accused, should be avoided. I have considered the following aspects.

- (1) The applicant is only a candidate who is going to appear in the examination and has given the money to one Shri. Naranbhai Bhujbhai Maru accused no. 16.
- (2) He is government servant and there is no possibility of escaping from the investigation.
- (3) The co-accused in the offense of similar nature have been released on bail.

7. Considering the aforesaid aspects and the law laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of *Siddharam Satlingappa Mhetre v. State of Maharashtra*, (2011) 1 SCC 694, wherein the Hon'ble Apex Court reiterated the law laid down by the Constitution Bench in the case of *Shri. Gurubaksh Singh Sibbia*, (1980) 2 SCC 665 and also the decision in the case of *Sushila Aggarwal v. State (NCT of Delhi)*, (2020) 5 SCC 1, I am inclined to allow the present application.

8. In the result, the present application is allowed by directing that in the event of applicant herein being arrested in connection with the FIR being C.R. No. 11210015230082 of 2023 with DCB Police Station, Surat City, the applicant shall be released on bail on furnishing a personal bond of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) with one surety of like amount on the following conditions that he:

- (a) shall cooperate with the investigation and make himself available for interrogation whenever required;
- (b) shall remain present at the concerned Police Station on

14/09/2023 between 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. and the IO shall ensure that no unnecessary harassment or inconvenience is caused to the applicant;

- (c) shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the fact of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the court or to any police officer;
- (d) shall not obstruct or hamper the police investigation and not to play mischief with the evidence collected or yet to be collected by the police;
- (e) shall at the time of execution of bond, furnish the address to the investigating officer and the court concerned and shall not change his residence till the final disposal of the case till further orders;
- (f) shall not leave India without the permission of the Court and if having passport shall deposit the same before the Trial Court within a week; and
- (g) it would be open to the Investigating Officer to file an application for remand if he considers it proper and just and the learned Magistrate would decide it on merits;

9. Despite this order, it would be open for the Investigating Agency to apply to the competent Magistrate, for police remand of the applicant. The applicant shall remain present before the learned Magistrate on the first date of hearing of such application and on all subsequent occasions, as may be directed by the learned Magistrate. This would be sufficient to treat the accused in the judicial custody for the purpose of entertaining application of the prosecution for police remand. It is clarified that the applicant, even if, remanded to the police custody, upon completion of such period of police remand, shall be set free immediately, subject to other conditions of this anticipatory bail order.

10. At the trial, the Trial Court shall not be influenced by the *prima facie* observations made by this Court while enlarging the applicant on bail.

11. Rule is made absolute to the aforesaid extent. Application is disposed of accordingly. Direct service is permitted.