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THE HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH
M.Cr.C. No.11073/2020
(Jitendra Vanshkar Vs. State of M.P.)

Gwalior, dated : 19.05.2020

Shri H.S.Rana, learned counsel for the applicant.

Shri C.P. Singh, learned PL for the respondent/State.

Matter is heard through Video Conferencing.

The applicant has filed this **first** application under Section 439 of Cr.P.C for grant of bail, who has been arrested and is in custody since 14.08.2019, in connection with Crime No.55/2019, registered at Police Station Gauraghat, District Datia for the offence punishable under Sections 363, 376 of IPC and Section 3/4 of the POCSO Act.

It is the submission of learned counsel for the applicant that false case has been registered against him. He is in confinement since 14.08.2019 whereas statement of prosecutrix under Section 164 of Cr.P.C. is non implicative in nature. Apparently, she left her maternal home on her volition. She is more than 17 years of age. Applicant and prosecutrix are relatives and earlier also, she eloped with him. Now they are entered into nuptial bond. Looking to the prevailing situation in the society and vicinity regarding Pandemic Covid-19, if he is given benefit of bail then he can take care of his family members. He undertakes to cooperate in trial/investigation and to appear before the trial court as and when required. He further undertakes to abide by all the terms and conditions of guidance,

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circulars and directions issued by Central Government, State Government as well as Local Administration regarding measures in respect of COVID-19 Pandemic and maintain hygiene in the vicinity while keeping physical distancing.

Learned P.L. for the State opposed the prayer and prayed for its dismissal.

Heard learned counsel for the parties at length through VC and considered the arguments advanced by them.

The Supreme Court by order dated 23-3-2020 passed in the case of **IN RE : CONTAGION OF COVID 19 VIRUS IN PRISONS** in **SUO MOTU W.P. (C) No. 1/2020** has directed all the States to constitute a High Level Committee to consider the release of prisoners in order to decongest the prisons. The Supreme Court has observed as under :

“The issue of overcrowding of prisons is a matter of serious concern particularly in the present context of the pandemic of Corona Virus (COVID – 19).

Having regard to the provisions of Article 21 of the Constitution of India, it has become imperative to ensure that the spread of the Corona Virus within the prisons is controlled.

We direct that each State/Union Territory shall constitute a High Powered Committee comprising of (i) Chairman of the State Legal Services Committee, (ii) the Principal Secretary (Home/Prison) by whatever designation is known as, (ii) Director General of Prison(s), to determine which class of prisoners can be

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released on parole or an interim bail for such period as may be thought appropriate. For instance, the State/Union Territory could consider the release of prisoners who have been convicted or are under trial for offences for which prescribed punishment is up to 7 years or less, with or without fine and the prisoner has been convicted for a lesser number of years than the maximum.

It is made clear that we leave it open for the High Powered Committee to determine the category of prisoners who should be released as aforesaid, depending upon the nature of offence, the number of years to which he or she has been sentenced or the severity of the offence with which he/she is charged with and is facing trial or any other relevant factor, which the Committee may consider appropriate.”

After considering the rival submissions as well as considering the peculiar fact situation, wherein, we are facing wrath of Pandemic COVID-19, this Court is of the considered opinion that applicant deserves to be released on bail.

As this Court is not in a position to consider the facts of the case in detail, however, considering the fact that in view of COVID-19 pandemic, without commenting on the merits of the case, it is hereby directed that the applicant shall be released on bail on his furnishing personal bond of **Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)** to the satisfaction of trial Court and that he will have to install **Arogya Setu App**, if not already installed.

In view of COVID-19 pandemic, the jail authorities are

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directed that before releasing the applicant, his preliminary Corona Virus test shall be conducted and if he is found negative, then the concerned local administration shall make necessary arrangements for sending the applicant to his house, and if he is found positive then the applicant shall be immediately sent to concerning hospital for her treatment as per medical norms. If the applicant is fit for release and if he is in a position to make his personal arrangements, then he shall be released only after taking due travel permission from local administration. After release, the applicant is further directed to strictly follow all the instructions which may be issued by the Central Govt./State Govt. or Local Administration for combating the Covid19. If it is found that the applicant has violated any of the instructions (whether general or specific) issued by the Central Govt./State Govt. or Local Administration, then this order shall automatically lose its effect, and the Local Administration/Police Authorities shall immediately take him in custody and would sent him to the same jail from where she was released.

This order will remain operative subject to compliance of the following conditions by the applicant :-

1.The applicant will comply with all the terms and conditions of the bond executed by him;

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2. The applicant will cooperate in the investigation/trial, as the case may be;

3. The applicant will not indulge himself in extending inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade them from disclosing such facts to the Court or to the Police Officer, as the case may be;

4. The applicant shall not commit an offence similar to the offence of which he is accused;

5. The applicant will not move in the vicinity of complainant party and applicants will not seek unnecessary adjournments during the trial;

6. The applicant will not leave India without previous permission of the trial Court/Investigating Officer, as the case may be; and

7. The applicant will inform the SHO of concerned police station about his residential address in the said area and it would be the duty of the Public Prosecutor to send **E-copy** of this order to SHO of concerned police station for information.

Application stands **allowed and disposed of.**

E- copy of this order be sent to the trial Court concerned for compliance, if possible for the office of this Court.

Certified copy/ e-copy as per rules/directions.

(Anand Pathak)
Judge