

(2023) 02 GUJ CK 0053
In the Gujarat High Court
Case No : R/Criminal Appeal No. 335 Of 2023

Gitaben Takhaji Thakor

APPELLANT

Vs

State Of Gujarat

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 13-02-2023

Acts Referred:

Scheduled Caste And Scheduled Tribe (Prevention Of Atrocities) Act, 1989 — Section 3(1)(r), 3(2)(va), 14
Code Of Criminal Procedure, 1973 — Section 438
Indian Penal Code, 1860 — Section 114, 294(b), 323, 354B, 452, 502(2)

Citation : (2023) 02 GUJ CK 0053

Hon'ble Judges : Samir J. Dave, J

Bench : Single Bench

Advocate : CR Mishra, R. C. Kodekar

Final Decision : Disposed Of

Judgement

Samir J. Dave, J

Learned Advocate for the applicant does not press for the present appeal qua applicant no.1. Present appeal stands disposed of as not pressed for. Hence, the present appeal is considered for applicant no.2- Hina Ranjitbhai Thakor as under.

1. By way of this appeal filed under Section 14 of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act read with Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the the applicant accused has prayed to release him on anticipatory bail in case of his arrest in connection with the FIR registered at C.R.No.I- 11191037221136 of 2022 with Odhav Police Station, Ahmedabad for the offences punishable u/s 354B, 452, 323, 294(b), 502(2), 114 of the IPC and u/s 3(1) (r), 3(2)(v-a) of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

3. 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 flee from justice. In view of the above, the applicant may be granted anticipatory bail.

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.

4. 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.

5. Learned advocates appearing on behalf of the respective parties do not press for further reasoned order.

6. Having heard the learned advocate for the parties and perusing the investigating papers and as well as taking into consideration the facts of the case, nature of allegations, gravity of offences, role attributed to the accused, without discussing the evidence in detail, at this stage, I am inclined to grant anticipatory bail to the applicant. This Court has also taken into consideration the law laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of Siddharam Satlingappa Mhetre vs. State of Maharashtra and Ors. as reported at [2011] 1 SCC 6941, wherein the Hon'ble Apex Court reiterated the law laid down by the Constitution Bench in the case of Shri Gurubaksh Singh Sibbia & Ors., as reported at (1980) 2 SCC 665.

7. In the result, the present application is allowed by directing that in the event of applicant herein being arrested pursuant to FIR registered at C.R.No.I-11191037221136 of 2022 with Odhav Police Station, Ahmedabad, 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:

(a) shall cooperate with the investigation and make himself available for interrogation whenever required;

(b) shall remain present at concerned Police Station on 20.02.2023 between 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.;

(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;

8. 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. This is, however, without prejudice to the right of the accused to seek stay against an order of remand, if, ultimately, granted, and the power of the learned Magistrate to consider such a request in accordance with law. 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.

9. 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.

10. Appeal is disposed of accordingly. Direct service is permitted.