

(2024) 03 GUJ CK 0082

In the Gujarat High Court

Case No : R/Criminal Misc.Application (For Anticipatory Bail) No. 22480 Of 2023,
R/Criminal Misc.Application No. 22558 Of 2023

Rushirajsinh Anilsinh Vaghela

APPELLANT

Vs

State Of Gujarat

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 27-03-2024

Acts Referred:

Code Of Criminal Procedure, 1973 — Section 438

Citation : (2024) 03 GUJ CK 0082

Hon'ble Judges : J. C. Doshi, J

Bench : Single Bench

Advocate : Ankit M Modi, Kishan R Chakwawala, Nisarg D Shah, Pooja D Shah,
HK Patel, Soham Joshi

Final Decision : Allowed

Judgement

J. C. Doshi, J

1. By way of the present petitions under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the petitioners have prayed to release him on anticipatory bail in case of his arrest in connection with the FIR registered as C.R.No.11211016230265 registered with Dhrangadhra Taluka Police Station.

2. Learned advocate for the petitioners submits that considering the nature of allegations, role attributed to the petitioners, the petitioners may be enlarged on anticipatory bail by imposing suitable conditions.

3. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing on behalf of the respondent-State as well as learned advocate for the first informant opposed grant of anticipatory bail looking to the nature and gravity of the offence.

4. Heard the learned Advocates for the respective parties and perused the papers.

5. 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 petitioners are not named in the FIR.

(2) The name of the petitioners are revealed from the statement of co-accused Mr. Sanjay, who has been enlarged on bail by the Hon'ble Apex Court and therefore, on the ground of parity, present petitions deserve consideration.

(3) Maximum punishment, which can be entailed in the present offence, is upto seven years.

(4) The civil dispute has been given cloak of criminality.

(5) The entire offence pertains to the documents and the same is in the custody of the investigating officer.

(6) Learned advocate for the petitioners assures the Court that the petitioners will cooperative with the investigation, as and when presence of the applicant is required.

(7) The petitioners have not gained any financial benefits. The allegations against the petitioners are that they have made bogus vouchers and on the said vouchers they took thumb impression of the agriculturists. However, the vouchers are not sent for FSL. All these issues are tested during the trial.

(8) The petitioners are permanent residence of Surendranagar district and therefore, there is no flight risk.

6. Having heard the learned counsel for the parties and perusing the record of the case and taking into consideration the facts of the case, nature of allegations, role attributed to the accused, without discussing the evidence in detail, at this stage, I am inclined to exercise discretion in favour of the petitioners.

7. This Court while exercising discretion in favour of the petitioners has taken into consideration law laid down by the Apex Court in the case of Siddharam Satlingappa Mhetre vs. State of Maharashtra and Ors. [2011] 1 SCC 694, wherein the Hon'ble Apex Court reiterated the law laid down by the

Constitutional Bench in the the case of Shri Gurubaksh Singh Sibbia & Ors. Vs. State of Punjab (1980) 2 SCC 665. This Court has also taken into consideration law laid down in the case of Sushila Agarwal v/s. State (NCT of Delhi [(2020) 5 SCC 1]).

8. In the result, the present petitions are allowed by directing that in the event of applicant herein being arrested pursuant to FIR registered as C.R.No.11211016230265 registered with Dhrangadhra Taluka Police Station, the petitioners shall be released on bail on furnishing a personal bond of Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only) each with one surety of like amount on the following conditions that the petitioners :

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

(b) shall remain present at concerned Police Station on 8.4.2024, 9.4.2024 and 10.4.2024 between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 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 them 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 residence till the final disposal of the case till further orders;

(f) shall not leave Gujarat without the permission of the concerned trial court and if having passport shall deposit the same before the concerned trial court within a week;

9. If breach of any of the above conditions is committed by the petitioners, the concerned learned Judge will be free to take appropriate action in the matter. It will be open for the concerned Court to delete, modify and/or relax any of the above conditions in accordance with law. At the trial, the Trial Court shall not be influenced by the prima facie observations made by this Court while enlarging the petitioners on bail.

Direct service is permitted.