



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH  
CRM-M-31961-2025  
Reserved on: 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2025  
Pronounced on: 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2025**

Reena Rani

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

**CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA**

Present: Mr. Veer Vikram Mann, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Sakshi Bakshi, Assistant Advocate General, Punjab.

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**MANISHA BATRA, J :-**

The present petition has been filed under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') by the petitioner seeking grant of anticipatory bail in case bearing FIR No. 25 dated 14.03.2025 registered under Sections 420 and 120-B of IPC at Police Station Block Majri, District SAS Nagar, Punjab.

2. The aforementioned FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint submitted by the complainant, Gurmeet Singh, alleging that his mother had passed away in the year 2005. His father, Sh. Labh Singh, had engaged Santosh Devi, mother of the present petitioner, for the purpose of preparing meals and doing household chores, as he was living alone. Santosh Devi, along with her family, started residing in a room of the house of the complainant. After marriage of the complainant, his father gave another house purchased by him to the family of Santosh Devi, with the



understanding that she could live there so long as she continued working at the house of the complainant. In the year 2019, Santosh Devi stopped working in the house of the complainant and, when the father of the complainant and the complainant himself asked her to vacate the house given to her, she extended threats to them and proclaimed that there was a full and final payment agreement for the purchase of that house in her favour and that she would not vacate the same. The petitioner and her brothers started intimidating the father of the complainant and even forced him to sign some cheques drawn on his bank account and kept withdrawing money. Out of fear, his father did not disclose this fact to the complainant. It was alleged that the petitioner, her mother and other family members, by taking advantage of the old age of his father, had procured his thumb impressions on an agreement to sell the house owned by him and had committed fraud and cheating against the complainant. He prayed for taking action in the matter. After the registration of the FIR, investigation proceedings have been initiated and are underway. Apprehending her arrest, the petitioner moved an application for grant of a pre-arrest bail, which has been dismissed by the court of learned Additional Sessions Judge SAS Nagar vide order dated 31.05.2025.

3. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that she has been falsely implicated in this case. The ingredients for commission of offence punishable under Section 420 of IPC are not at all attracted against her. There had never been any inducement on her part. The allegations of hatching a conspiracy are also without any basis. She is ready to join the investigation. Her custodial interrogation is not required. No recovery is to



be effected from her. It is, therefore, argued that she deserves to be extended benefit of anticipatory bail.

4. Status report has been filed. It is argued by learned State counsel that the petitioner, in connivance with her mother and other family members, had withdrawn money from the bank account of the father of the complainant, had taken possession of the house owned by the complainant in an illegal manner and had also transferred electricity meter of house of the complainant in the name of her mother. Her custodial interrogation is required for conducting proper investigation in the matter. No exceptional or extraordinary circumstance for grant of bail is made out. It is, therefore, urged that the petition does not deserve to be allowed.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties at considerable length and have gone through the record carefully.

6. The petitioner is alleged to be a part of conspiracy hatched by her mother and other family members to deprive the complainant from ownership of the house owned by his father, and in pursuance of that conspiracy, they are alleged to have got procured the thumb impressions of the father of the complainant on some agreement to sell. As per the further allegations, the petitioner had withdrawn huge amount of money from the bank account of the father of the complainant. The case is, however, based on documentary evidence. The subject offence is triable by Magistrate. It is a debatable question as to whether, the petitioner was part of conspiracy hatched by the co-accused. She has no criminal antecedents. FIR in this case was lodged after a gap of seven years. Civil litigation between the parties is already pending. In view of the above discussed facts and the circumstances



peculiar to the case, this Court is of the considered opinion that no case for pre-trial incarceration of the petitioner is made out and there would be no justification for her custodial interrogation. Accordingly, the petition is allowed and the petitioner is directed to join the investigation within a period of ten days from today by appearing and surrendering before the Investigating/Arresting Officer and thereafter also as and when she will be called by the Investigating/Arresting Officer. She will co-operate with the investigation proceedings till the presentation of challan. In case of her failure to do so, it will be open for the prosecution to seek cancellation of bail. She will give the details of her passport, if available, mobile number(s), Aadhaar card, etc. to the Investigating Officer at the time of joining investigation.

7. It is, however, clarified that the observations made hereinabove shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

8. Since the main petition has been allowed, pending application, if any, is rendered infructuous.

**[MANISHA BATRA]**  
**JUDGE**

**11<sup>th</sup> August, 2025**

*Parveen Sharma*

1. *Whether speaking/ reasoned* : *Yes / No*  
2. *Whether reportable* : *Yes / No*