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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH**

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Date of decision : 26.08.2025

Bittu Ram @ Maanu Ram

..... Petitioner

V/S

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE AMARJOT BHATTI

Present: Mr. Karandeep Singh, Advocate for petitioner.

Ms. Amrit Kaur Mahir, AAG, Punjab.

AMARJOT BHATTI J. (ORAL)

1. Petitioner- Bittu Ram @ Maanu Ram has filed petition under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for grant of anticipatory bail in case FIR No.43 dated 15.04.2025 (Annexure P-1), under Section 137(2), 96 of BNS 2023, registered at Police Station Bahawala, District Fazilka, Punjab.

2. As per facts of case, complainant 'RK' gave his statement that he is father of three daughters and one son. On 14.04.2025, rest of the family had gone out and the victim 'K' aged about 15 years was present in the house along with his mother. In the afternoon when he along with his wife returned home to take lunch, the victim 'K' was not present in the house. They tried to search her whereabouts but could not locate her. He came to know that Bittu Ram @ Maanu



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Ram son of Krishan Lal resident of their village was keeping bad eye on his daughter, therefore, he was sure that his daughter was enticed away by him by giving allurements of marriage. With these allegations, present FIR has been registered.

3. Learned counsel for petitioner pointed out that allegations levelled against him are false. In pursuance of previous order dated 16.07.2025, he has joined the investigation. The victim is giving contradictory statements under the pressure of her family. He is ready to abide by the terms and conditions of bail order. It is prayed that his anticipatory bail petition may be allowed.

4. Status report has been filed, according to which the victim was recovered on 16.04.2025 and her statement was recorded under Section 183 of BNSS on the same day, where she claimed that she did not know Bittu Ram @ Maanu Ram. Her parents wanted to perform her marriage forcibly. After the quarrel, she left the house alone. She categorically claimed that she had no relation with Bittu Ram @ Maanu Ram. She was taken to Civil Hospital, Abohar for medical examination. Thereafter, on 26.04.2025, again another statement of victim was recorded where she claimed that she was taken away by the petitioner by giving her allurements of marriage and thereafter she was left near an orchard. It is confirmed that in pursuance of orders passed by this Court, petitioner has joined the investigation and he is not required for any other purpose.

5. I have considered the aforesaid factual position. As referred above, petitioner has joined the investigation. Victim is already recovered. As per record, statement of victim has been recorded twice. In one statement, she did not level any allegation and in another statement, she levelled allegations against present petitioner. The facts and the evidence on record will be appreciated by

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learned trial Court at appropriate stage. Since, petitioner has joined the investigation, no purpose would be served by sending him behind the bars. Therefore, without expressing my mind on merits, anticipatory bail petition filed by petitioner Bittu Ram @ Maanu Ram is allowed. He be not arrested. In case of his arrest, he be released on bail to the satisfaction of Arresting/Investigating Officer concerned, subject to condition that petitioner will join investigation as and when required. He will not tamper with or interfere with investigation and will not leave country without prior permission as provided under Section 482(2) of BNSS, 2023.

6. Pending application(s), if any, also stands disposed of accordingly.

(AMARJOT BHATTI)
JUDGE

26.08.2025.*Sunil Devi*

Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable:	Yes/No