

Prateek Mittal v. Union Of India And Another

CRIMINAL MISC. BAIL APPLICATION No. 40502 of 2023 | Decision: 2023-10-27 | Allahabad High Court

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Neutral Citation No. - 2023:AHC:206160

Court No. - 83

Case :- CRIMINAL MISC. BAIL APPLICATION No. - 40502 of 2023

Applicant :- Prateek Mittal Opposite Party :- Union Of India And Another Counsel for Applicant :- Jai Prakash Counsel for Opposite Party :- Dhananjay Awasthi, Parv Agarwal

Hon'ble Sanjay Kumar Pachori, J.

Heard Sri Nafeesh Ahmad, Advocate holding brief of Sri Jai Prakash, learned counsel for the applicant, Sri Parv Agarwal, learned counsel for the Union of India and perused the record of the case.

The present bail application has been filed on behalf of applicant, Prateek Mittal under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, with a prayer to release him on bail in Case Crime No. 887 of 2023, under Sections 132(1)(b)(c), (1)(i) of Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, Department DGGI, Meerut during pendency of trial, after rejecting the bail application of the applicant by Sessions Judge, Meerut vide order dated 28.07.2023.

Learned counsel for the applicant submits that the applicant is innocent and has been falsely implicated in the present case. It is further submitted that the applicant has been arrested without assigning any reason to believe nor any satisfaction to justified his arrest as provided in the Code. It is further submitted that offences as alleged are punishable up-to 5 years imprisonment. It is further submitted that no notice for recovery of G.S.T. has been issued against the applicant and he is illegally arrested. It is further submitted that till date penalty or taxes has not been ascertained as per Act. It is further submitted that the offences are compoundable in nature and triable by Magistrate. The applicant is languishing in jail since 09.06.2023. In support of his submission, he relied upon the judgment of Apex Court in Satender Kumar Antil Vs. Central Bureau of Investigation & Another, (2021) 10 SCC 773.

It is further submitted that applicant has criminal history of one case, which has been duly explained in the affidavit filed in support of the bail application. It is next submitted that the applicant has no other previous criminal history except one case

and if the applicant is released on bail, he shall not misuse the liberty of bail.

Per contra, learned counsel for Union of India has supported the order passed by the Session court and vehemently opposed the prayer for grant of bail to the applicant and submits that the allegations involved are very serious in nature. But he could not point out any material to the contrary. In support of his submission, he relied upon the judgement of Apex Court in Basudev Mittal Vs. Union of India decided by Chhatisgarh High Court in MCRC No. 3919 of 2022 on 15.07.2022, by which Special Leave petition against the order of Chattishgarh High Court was rejected by the Supreme Court on 12.12.2022. He further submits that in case the applicant is released on bail, he will again indulge in similar activities and will misuse the liberty of bail.

After considering the facts of the present case it prima facie appears that;

- (a) The applicant has been arrested without assigning any reason to believe nor any satisfaction to justified his arrest as provided in the Act;
- (b) Offences as alleged are punishable up-to 5 years imprisonment;
- (c) No notice for recovery of G.S.T. has been issued against the applicant and he is illegally arrested;
- (d) Till date penalty or taxes has not been ascertained as per Act;

(e) Offences are compoundable in nature and triable by Magistrate;

It is a settled law that while granting bail, the court has to keep in mind the nature of accusation, the nature of the evidence in support thereof, the severity of the punishment which conviction will entail, the character of the accused, the circumstances which are peculiar to the accused, his role and involvement in the offence, his involvement in other cases and reasonable apprehension of the witnesses being tampered with.

Taking into account the totality of facts and keeping in mind, the ratio of the Apex Court's judgment in the case of State of Rajasthan v. Balchand @ Baliay (1977) 4 SCC 308, Gudikanti Narasimhulu And Ors., v. Public Prosecutor, High Court Of Andhra Pradesh, AIR 1978 SC 429, Ram

Govind Upadhyay v. Sudarshan Singh & Ors., (2002) 3 SCC 598, Prasanta Kumar Sarkar v. Ashis Chatterjee & Anr., (2010) 14 SCC 496 and Mahipal v. Rajesh Kumar & Anr., (2020) 2 SCC 118, the larger interest of the public/State and other circumstances, but without expressing any opinion on the merits, I am of the view that it is a fit case for grant of bail. Hence, the present bail application is allowed.

Let applicant, Prateek Mittal be released on bail in the aforesaid case crime number on his furnishing a personal bond and two reliable sureties each in the like amount to the satisfaction of the court concerned subject to the following conditions:

(i) The applicant shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat, or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the court or to any police officer or tamper with the evidence.

(ii) The applicant shall not pressurize/intimidate the prosecution witnesses.

(iii) The applicant shall remain present, in person, before the trial court on the dates fixed for (i) opening of the case, (ii) framing of charge and (iii) recording of statement under Section 313 of Cr.P.C.

(iv) The applicant shall file an undertaking to the effect that he shall not seek any adjournment on the dates fixed for evidence when the witnesses are present in the trial court.

(v) The applicant shall remain present before the trial court on each date fixed, either personally or through his counsel.

(vi) The applicant shall not indulge in any criminal activity or commission of any crime after being released on bail.

In case of breach of any of the above conditions, it shall be a ground for cancellation of bail. If in the opinion of the trial court that absence of the applicant is deliberate or without sufficient cause, then it shall be open for the trial court to treat such default as abuse of liberty of bail and proceed in accordance with law.

The trial court may make all possible efforts/endeavor and try to conclude the trial expeditiously in accordance with law after the release of the applicant, if there is no other legal impediment.

It is made clear that the observations made in this order are limited to the purpose of determination of this bail application and will in no way be construed as an expression on the merits of the case. The trial court shall be absolutely free to arrive at its independent conclusions on the basis of evidence led unaffected by anything said in this order.

The party shall file computer generated copy of such order downloaded from the official website of High Court Allahabad, self attested by the applicant along-with a self attested identity proof of the said person (preferably Aadhar Card) mentioning the mobile number to which the said Aadhar Card is linked.

The concerned Court/Authority/Official shall verify the authenticity of such computerized copy of the order from the official website of High Court Allahabad and shall make a declaration of such verification in writing.

Order Date :- 27.10.2023 S.A.

