Court No. - 28

Case: - CRIMINAL MISC ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION U/S 438 CR.P.C. No. - 1794 of 2021

Applicant :- Aparna Purohit **Opposite Party :-** State of U.P. and Another **Counsel for Applicant :-** Purnendu Chakravarty, Anuuj
Taandon, Shivanshu Goswami **Counsel for Opposite Party :-** G.A.

Hon'ble Krishan Pahal, J.

Heard Sri Jaideep Narayan Mathur, learned Senior Advocate assisted by Sri Purnendu Chakravarty, learned counsel for the applicant and Sri Santosh Mishra, learned Additional Government Advocate for the State and also perused the material available on record.

The applicant is seeking anticipatory bail in connection with FIR/Case Crime No.0031 of 2021, under Sections 153-A, 295, 505(1)(b), 505(2), 469 IPC & Sections 66, 66-F & 67 of Information Technology Act, 2008 (as amended), Police Station - Hazratganj, District- Lucknow.

As per the prosecution story, the applicant, who is the Commercial Head of Amazon Prime Video, is said to have purchased the rights of web series "Taandav". It has further been alleged that in the said web series, certain actors cast some scenes portraying 'God' in a very derogatory manner which hurts the sentiments of the public at large.

It is the contention of the learned counsel for the applicant that the applicant has not intended to hurt anyone's sentiment although the entire episode of the said web series are based on coincidental. There is no criminal history of the applicant. There is no possibility of the applicant to flee from justice, and, therefore, she is entitled for interim protection from this Court.

Sri Santosh Mishra, learned Additional Government Advocate has opposed the prayer for anticipatory bail.

Considering the overall facts and circumstances of the case, this Court is of the opinion that the applicant deserves to be granted anticipatory bail in connection with the aforesaid case.

Accordingly, the anticipatory bail application is disposed of with following directions:-

- (A) In the event of arrest of the applicant involved in aforesaid case shall be released on anticipatory bail till the submission of police report, if any, under section 173(2) Cr.P.C. before the competent Court on his/her furnishing a personal bond of Rs.50,000/- with two sureties each of the like amount to the satisfaction of the Station House Officer of the police station concerned;
- (B) The applicant shall co-operate with the Investigating Officer during investigation and shall report to the Investigating Officer as and when required for the purpose of conducting investigation;
- (C) 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 them from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer; and
- (D) The applicant shall not leave India without the previous permission of the Court.

In default or misuse of any of the conditions, the Public Prosecutor/ Investigating Officer/ first informant-complainant is at liberty to file appropriate application for cancellation of anticipatory bail granted to the applicant.

Order Date :- 28.3.2022 Siddhant