

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI

B.A. No. 9000 of 2020

Lohar Singh Munda

... **Petitioner**

-versus-

The State of Jharkhand

... **Opposite Party**

**CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANANDA SEN
THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING**

For the Petitioner : Mr. Anil Kumar Ganjhu, Advocate

For the State : Mr. Vijay Kumar Sinha, A.P.P.

2/ 27.11.2020 Heard learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned A.P.P. for the State through Video Conferencing. The lawyers have no objection with regard to the proceeding, which has been held through Video Conferencing today at 11.00 a.m. They have no complain in respect to the audio and video clarity and quality.

Petitioner is an accused for allegedly committing the offence punishable under Sections 302, 201/34, 120(B) of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 3/4/5 of the Prevention of Witch (Daain) Practices Act, in connection with Namkum Police Station Case No.70 of 2018 (G.R. No.2719 of 2018) corresponding to Sessions Trial No.489 of 2018, pending in the Court of learned Additional Judicial Commissioner III, Ranchi.

Petitioner has renewed his prayer for bail on the ground that other co-accused persons have been granted bail by a Coordinate Bench of this Court and thereafter by this Court also. He places the order passed by this Court in B.A. No.1028 of 2020 and B.A. No.1733 of 2020.

Considering the aforesaid two orders and the fact that the case of the petitioner is similarly situated, I am inclined to grant bail to the petitioner. Accordingly, petitioner, namely, Lohar Singh Munda, is directed to be released on bail on furnishing bail bonds of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) with two sureties of the like amount each to the satisfaction of the learned Additional Judicial Commissioner III, Ranchi in connection with Namkum Police Station Case No.70 of 2018 (G.R. No.2719 of 2018) corresponding to Sessions Trial No.489 of 2018.

Further, I also direct the Jail Authority that before releasing the petitioner from jail, the Jail Authority should get the petitioner tested for

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COVID-19. If the report is positive, then the District Administration will immediately take steps to isolate the petitioner and get him treated in the COVID Centre by following all the protocols. This direction is given in the larger public interest and it should not be construed as a condition of bail.

(Ananda Sen, J.)