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ITEM NO.45 COURT NO.1 SECTION X

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition (Criminal) No.8/2023

LEENA MANIMEKALAI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(With IA No.8671/2023 - EX-PARTE STAY, IA No.8673/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No.63913/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

Date: 10-04-2023 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM:

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PAMIDIGHANTAM SRI NARASIMHA

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA

For Petitioner(s) Ms. Indira Unninayar, AOR

Ms. Mudrakshi, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Mr. Tushar Mehta, SG

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, ASG

Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR

Mr. Rajat Nair, Adv.

Mr. Abhishek Atrey, Adv.

Mr. Rajesh Singh Chauhan, Adv.

Dr. N. Visakamurthy, Adv.

Mr. Sharan Thakur, A.A.G.

Mr. Adarsh Upadhyay, AOR

Mr. Sidharth Thakur, Adv.

Mr. Aman Pathak, Adv.

Ms. Pallavi Kumari, Adv. Ms. Keerti Jaya, Adv.

Mr. Jatinder Kumar Bhatia, AOR

Mr. Krishnam Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Param Kumar Mishra, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following O R D E R

- 1 The following FIRs have been lodged against the petitioner:
 - (a) FIR No 194/2022 dated 4.7.2022 through IFSO Unit, Special Cell, Delhi;
 - (b) FIR No 0239/2022 dated 4.7.2022 in UP, PS Hazratganj;
 - (c) FIR No 0481/2022 dated 6.7.2022 in MP, PS Station Road Ratlam;
 - (d) FIR No 0110/2022 dated 6.7.2022 in MP, by Bhopal Crime Branch;
 - (e) FIR No 0288/2022 dated 8.7.2022 in MP, PS Annapurna, Indore; and
 - (f) FIR No 0213/2022 dated 7.7.2022 in Uttarakhand, PS Kankhal, Haridwar.
- On 20 January 2023, this Court while issuing notice on the petition observed that it is inclined to consolidate all the FIRs in one and the same place, in which event the petitioner will be at liberty to pursue her remedy under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973. Pending further orders, this Court directed that no coercive steps shall be taken against the petitioner either on the basis of the FIRs which have been instituted against her or pursuant to any other FIR which may have been lodged or may be lodged hereafter in respect of the same film.
- Having heard counsel appearing on behalf of the contesting parties, we order and direct that the FIRs listed out above at (b) to (f) above shall stand transferred to the IFSO Unit, Special Cell Delhi so that they may be investigated together with FIR No 194 of 2022. The petitioner would be at liberty to move the High Court of Delhi in appropriate proceedings under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973.

- 4 Until an appropriate report is filed by the Investigating Officer under Section 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973, the ad-interim order of this Court dated 20 January 2023 protecting the petitioner against coercive steps either on the basis of the FIRs which were instituted or which may be lodged thereafter in respect of the same film, shall continue to operate.
- 5 The Petition shall stand disposed of in the above terms.
- 6 Pending applications, if any, stand disposed of.

(CHETAN KUMAR) A.R.-cum-P.S. (SAROJ KUMARI GAUR) Assistant Registrar