

**Misc. Case- 76 of 2023**

**Order dated: 14.08.2025**

Record is fixed today for passing order and filing of bank statement.

Both parties filed their respective haziras.

DIR has already been received by this Court.

Now, the record is taken up for passing order in respect of petition under section 23 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

The petitioner's case in brief is that the petitioner is the legally married wife of respondent no. 1 and their marriage was registered on 04.12.2015 as per Hindu Rites and Customs. At the time of her marriage, the family members of the petitioner gave cash Rs. 4,50,000/-, out of this Rs. 2.5 lakhs cash and Rs. 2 lakhs by cheque being no. 46693 and 929630 dated 04.09.2015, one motor cycle, gold ornaments, wooden cot with bedding, dressing table, almirah, refrigerator, washing machine, AC, T.V. mixed grinder, room heater, wearing apparels and utensils as per the demand of the respondents. After her marriage, the petitioner went to her matrimonial home along with all stridhan articles at 30/1, Dasharath Ghosh Lane and started her conjugal life with the respondent no. 1. After two months of her marriage, the respondent no. 1 and his family members stated demanding more money of Rs. 10,00,000/- from the petitioner's father. When the petitioner's father was unable to fulfill their demands. The respondent no. 1 and his family members started torture upon her physically and mentally and in the mean time, the petitioner was conceived and after knowing its, the torture upon the petitioner was increased day by day and demanding the said amount of Rs. 10,00,000/-. The respondents also assaulted the petitioner and threatened her about the pregnancy and when the petitioner raised objection then the respondents forcibly driven out her from the matrimonial home in a single clothing. In the meantime, the petitioner gave birth of a male child dated 16.03.2017. After that one Misc. Case was filed before the Ld. C.J.M, at Howrah vide Misc. Case being no. 24 of 2017 and subsequently, it has been transferred before the Ld. 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Magistrate, Howrah and wherein, Ld. Court passed an order of interim maintenance on 15.05.2017 and directed the respondents to pay Rs. 5,000/- per month to the petitioner and the minor child. She further stated that the respondent no. 1 is a businessman and runs a business in the name and style (Dinesh Enterprise) and earns Rs. 1,00,000/- per month and the petitioner has no source of income.

The petitioner has prayed for interim maintenance relief of Rs. 20,000/- per month for herself and Rs. 15,000/- per month for her minor child.

The petitioner has filed her Affidavit of Assets and Liabilities which is also perused by this court wherein the petitioner has stated that she has no source of income of her own.

The respondents have filed written objection and also filed his Affidavit of assets

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and liabilities. By filling the written objection the opposite parties have rebuffed the whole case of the aggrieved person as a pack of lies. The respondents admitted the fact of marriage and the child but denied all the allegations of the petitioner. The respondents further stated that after few days of marriage, the petitioner started showing her dissatisfaction towards the family members and often the petitioner quarreling with the family members of the respondents in a loud voice and abused them in filthy languages. Afterwards, petition started insisting upon the respondent no. 1 to separately live in other accommodation but every time refused by the respondent no. 1. on 10.10.2016, the petitioner voluntarily returned to her parental house by taking all her belongings. He further stated that he earns of Rs. 5,000/- per month.

The definition of domestic violence as jotted down in Section 3 of the said Act is very wide in its scope. It takes within its fold different acts including physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse. Now, the question that crops up is whether the allegations as outlined in the petition make out a case as presented by the petitioner before this court or not. What would be the standard of proof at this stage of interim hearing regarding the allegations stated in the application?

Section 23 of the Act provides that the magistrate has to satisfy himself as regards the existence of a prima-facie case in the factual set-up projected by the petitioner/applicant on the basis of an affidavit. In its literal sense, 'prima facie' means on the face of it. The expression 'prima facie' is often used in common parlance to mean 'on first blush' or 'on first impression', without deriving a conclusive meaning. Therefore, if the allegations depicted in the application make out a case that falls among any of the category mentioned above, the court would then have to pass an order keeping in mind the object for which the Act was enacted. The tangled factual questions that have surfaced in the instant case from the pleadings of the contending parties would be dealt with according to the evidence led by the parties during trial. But, the legislative mandate as reflected under section 23 should be Honoured by the court so far as the interim relief is concerned. The facts narrated in the application supported by the affidavit and the DIR *prima facie* show that the applicant was subjected to physical abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse at the hands of the respondent.

Thus, keeping in view the benevolent nature of the Act, the provisions under the act should be interpreted broadly. In **Workmen of American Express International Banking Corporation Vs. Management of American Express International Banking Corporation, (1985) II LLJ 539** the Hon'ble Supreme Court observed:-

"The principles of statutory construction are well-settled. Words occurring in statutes of liberal import, such as social welfare legislations, and 'human rights' legislations, are not to be put in procrustean beds or shrunk to Lilliputian dimensions. In construing these legislations, the imposture of literal construction

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must be avoided and the prodigality of its misapplication must be recognized and reduced. Judges ought to be more concerned with the 'colour', 'content' and 'context' of such statutes".

Unless the contrary is shown by the respondent, the provision made in favour of the women will be interpreted in their favour. Since the burden upon the victim of domestic violence is to show by way of an affidavit that she was subjected to domestic violence, the court would pass the order at the interim stage which appears to be justified and necessary. In the instant case, the petitioner has alleged that she was tortured by the respondent and she has filed an affidavit to that effect. She has thus met the terms of the requirement of law as contemplated under section 23 of the Act. That apart the contention of petitioner finds support by the domestic incident report submitted by the protection officer. The photocopies of the documents filed by parties cannot be relied on by this Court at this stage as they are required to be proved by relevant evidence.

In this case, the aggrieved person is the wife of the respondent and they lived their conjugal life in a shared household. It means that there is a domestic relationship between them.

It appears that both sides have filed their affidavit of assets and liabilities and the aggrieved person has stated in her petition as well as affidavit of assets and liabilities that she has no source of income of her own. Whereas from the affidavit of assets and liabilities submitted by the respondent it appears that he earns Rs. 5000/- per month.

The petitioner has prayed for interim maintenance relief of Rs. 20,000/- each per month for herself and Rs. 15,000/- her minor child.

There is nothing to show herein that the aggrieved person has any income of her own to maintain herself, which disentitles her from claiming interim maintenance for herself during the pendency of the proceeding. No documents have been put forth before this Court by the respondent/husband showing the income of the aggrieved person and so the facts remain as to who will look after the interests of the petitioner at this threshold stage of litigation. Therefore, this Court is of the opinion that respondent /husband is required to look after the interests of the petitioner as well as the minor child till the discord involved in this case is decided.

From the above mentioned points it is clear that the petitioner is thus entitled to get an interim monetary relief from the respondent no.1. So, considering the above stated facts and circumstances as well as the hike in the market price, I am inclined to allow the prayer for interim monetary relief. Therefore, the petitioner is entitled to get a monthly monetary relief of Rs. 2,500/- (Rupees two thousand five hundred only) per month for herself and Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) per month for her minor child till the attainment of her majority. This court is also inclined to hold that this amount is sufficient for her maintenance as per her status, situation and social condition and it will also not prejudice to the opposite

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party no.1 at this stage.

It appears that the petitioner has prayed for protection order against the respondents restraining them from committing any act of domestic violence in future. On perusal of the record it prima facie appears that she was subjected to domestic violence by the respondents at her matrimonial home. In this circumstances the Court is of the opinion that to protect the petitioner from any act of domestic violence in future, interim protection order is required to be passed in favour of the aggrieved.

Hence it is,

**O R D E R E D**

that the instant interim petition is **allowed** on contest in part without any order as to costs.

The petitioner does get an order U/S 23 towards monthly monetary relief of Rs. 2,500/-(Rupees two thousand five hundred only) per month for herself and Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) per month for her minor child till the attainment of her majority from the date of filing of this case i.e. 08.02.2023 and until further order and such interim relief to be paid by opposite party no.1 within every 10<sup>th</sup> day of every succeeding English calendar month, failing which the petitioner would be at liberty to execute the order so passed.

The respondents are restrained from committing any act of domestic violence upon the petitioner. The other reliefs as prayed for by the petitioner which are not discussed above are rejected at this stage and will be considered after going through the evidence of this case.

The Inspector-in-charge of Dasnagar, Police Station, District Howrah as well as Inspector-in-charge of Bantra, Police Station, District Howrah are hereby directed to provide all necessary legal assistance to the petitioner so that the order passed herein be implemented by the respondent.

Let the copy of this order be handed over to the petitioner free of cost.

Let a copy of this order be also sent to the protection officer and IC of Dasnagar PS, Howrah and IC of Bantra PS, Howrah for information and compliance.

Fix **24.11.2025** for evidence of 1<sup>st</sup> party.

D/C by me.

Sarmistha Bose, (JO Code WB01187)

J.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> Court, Howrah

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