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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 10637/2025

RAJESH GUPTA

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Sanjeev Bhandari, Mr. Arjit
Shashma, Ms. Sakshi Jha and
Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Advs.

versus

UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Manish Jain, Special
Counsel with Ms. Sougata
Ganguly and Ms. Meenal
Gahlot, Advs.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE RENU BHATNAGAR

ORDER

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31.07.2025

CM APPL. 44043/2025 (seeking permission to travel abroad)

1. The present petition has been filed seeking quashing of a Look Out Circular (hereinafter referred to as "LOC") which is likely to have been issued by the respondent No. 2/ED against the petitioner herein.
2. As stated by the petitioner/applicant, the respondent No. 2/ED issued summons dated 27.05.2024 bearing reference no. PMLA/Summon/STF/2024/1946 in File No. STF/23/2021, under Section 50 (2) and (3) of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "PMLA") in relation to some inquiry against the petitioner.
3. In view of the above, the petitioner apprehends the issuance of an LOC against him, therefore, *vide* the captioned application, he seeks intervention of this Court *inter alia* granting him permission to travel to Prague, Rome, Zurich and Italy from 01.08.2025 till



17.08.2025 along with his family as per the itinerary, which has been annexed as Annexure P-3 to the instant petition.

4. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is duly appearing before the Investigating Officer (hereinafter referred to as “IO”) of the respondent No.2/ED and is providing full co-operation in the investigation. He also submits that there are no direct allegations or accusations against the petitioner and, therefore, he may be allowed to travel on the aforesaid dates with his family as per the itinerary.

5. The learned counsel for the respondent No.2/ED has handed over a copy of the Reply dated 30.07.2025, to the instant application, the same is taken on record.

6. The learned counsel for the respondent no. 2 submits that the role of the petitioner in the instant case is yet to be determined and one LOC has been issued against him *vide* letter dated 29.08.2023. Referring to paragraph No. 3 of the Reply, he submits that the petitioner herein, in his voluntary statements, recorded under Section 50 of the PMLA on 16.04.2024 and 29.05.2024, deposed that he travelled to several countries between 2005 to 2023 for business opportunities and during his financial difficulty, he was provided financial assistance by one, Mr. Rajesh Sodhi of Rs. 20,00,000/- in cash. Furthermore, in the year 2016, he visited Dubai where he was introduced to a person namely Mr. Pawan Thakur, who is one of the accused in the investigation initiated by the respondent No.2 and the said person operates from Bur Dubai.

7. Learned counsel for the respondent No.2/ED further refers to



paragraph No. 4 of the Reply and submits that the said LOC specifically requests for conversion from “*Detain and inform Originator*” to “*Inform arrival/departure of subject (but no other action to be taken)*” vide email dated 29.07.2025 sent to Bureau of Immigration.

8. The learned counsel for the respondent No.2/ED submits that in view of the conversion, the petitioner should be required to inform the details *qua* his arrival and departure to the Originator.

9. Heard the learned counsels for the parties and perused the Reply of the respondent No.2/ED.

10. Notably, an investigation has been initiated against several accused persons, and the petitioner has been in contact with one of the main accused in the present investigation, on the basis of which, one LOC has been issued against him *vide* letter dated 29.08.2023.

11. However, a bare perusal of the Reply, which has been handed over today in Court, discloses that the requisite condition as mentioned in the LOC states that the petitioner is required to inform about his arrival and departure in case he wishes to travel abroad, and no other action is to be taken.

12. At this stage, this Court deems it appropriate to reproduce paragraph No. 4 of the reply dated 30.07.2025:

*“4.It is submitted that one LOC was issued by the Respondent qua the Petitioner vide letter dated 29/08/2023. The said LOC has been requested for conversion from ‘**Detain and inform Originator**’ to “**Inform arrival/departure of subject (but no other action to be taken)**’ vide email dated 29.07.2025 sent to the Bureau of Immigration.*



(Emphasis supplied)”

13. This Court also takes into consideration the fact that the petitioner has been summoned as a mere witness and there are no allegations or accusations against him to this date and the LOC has already been converted as stated by the respondent No.2. Furthermore, it is also noteworthy to mention herein that the Tourist Visa issued to the petitioner is valid only till 30.08.2025.

14. In view of the above, and at this juncture, this Court is of the opinion that the petitioner should not be prohibited to undertake the travel as sought by him in the instant application, subject to him following the condition as mentioned in the aforesaid manner in the LOC. Accordingly, the petitioner is permitted to travel abroad on the following conditions:

- (i) The petitioner shall travel to Prague, Rome, Zurich and Italy from 01.08.2025 till 17.08.2025 along with his family, as per the itinerary. In this regard, he is directed to submit his proper itinerary to the learned Joint Registrar (Judicial) of this Court, today itself;
- (ii) For the aforesaid period of travel, the petitioner shall give details of any telephone number which is active and used by him, operational at all times, to the learned Joint Registrar (Judicial) of this Court, today itself;
- (iii) And the petitioner shall inform the Originator, regarding his arrival and departure from the concerned airports.

15. List the matter before the learned Joint Registrar (Judicial) on today itself at 05:30 PM for necessary compliance.

16. With the aforesaid directions, the application stands disposed



of.

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17. List before regular Roster Bench on 8th September, 2025.
18. Copy of this order be given *dasti* under the signature of the Court Master.

RENU BHATNAGAR, J

JULY 31, 2025

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