

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

- 1 The High Court of Punjab & Haryana, declined to grant anticipatory bail under Section 438 of the Criminal Procedure Code 1973. Having regard to the bar contained in Section 18 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act) 1989, the view of the High Court does not suffer from error. The petitioner would, however, be at liberty to seek regular bail. In order to enable him to do so, the ad-interim order which is in operation should be extended.
- 2 The petitioner was granted ad-interim protection against arrest by the order of this Court dated 7 September 2020. We extend the protection granted by the order of this court by a further period of two weeks from today. It would be open to the petitioner to surrender before the competent court and apply for regular bail and if such an application is made, it shall be considered expeditiously.
- 3 The Special Leave Petition is accordingly disposed of.
- 4 Pending applications, if any, stand disposed of.

(CHETAN KUMAR)
A.R. -cum-P.S.

(SAROJ KUMARI GAUR)
Court Master