

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

2025:PHHC:078113



213

CRM-M-24352-2025 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 02.07.2025.

Jagjit Singh

...Petitioner.

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent.

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE SUKHVINDER KAUR

Present: Mr. Sukhandeep Singh, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Navdeep Singh, AAG, Punjab.

SUKHVINDER KAUR, J. (Oral)

Present petition has been filed under Section 482 of BNSS, 2023 for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in FIR No.136 dated 23.12.2022, under Section 466, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC, registered at Police Station Chohla Sahib, District Tarn Taran.

The relevant facts of the present case are that the complaint of Mitarpal Singh was received on the helpline number launched by Punjab Government, thereafter, he was also named as an accused in the present case. Mitarpal Singh had raised allegations against the petitioner that he demanded Rs.3,000/- as bribe and Sarpanch Manjit Kaur and beneficiary petitioner- Jagjit Singh had changed the resolution from the proceeding book of Gram Panchayat. After inquiry, it was concluded that the said allegations levelled by Mitarpal Singh against Jaspal Singh for demanding bribe were not true. It was further found that Mitarpal Singh fabricated resolutions of Panchayat for obtaining ration depot.

Learned counsel for the petitioner has contended that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case due to political enmity. The resolution in question does not bear his signatures and no allegations of corruption were levelled by the complainant Mitarpal Singh against the petitioner. There is unexplained delay of about six months in lodging the FIR. Co-accused Mitarpal Singh has been granted concession of bail by learned Additional District and Sessions Judge, Tarn Taran and the petitioner is also entitled for concession of bail on the ground of parity. He has prayed that custodial interrogation of the petitioner is not required and he is ready and willing to join the investigation and this bail application be allowed.

Notice was issued in this case on 06.05.2025 and status report was called from the State, which has been filed today on 24.06.2025 with the Registry of this Court and the same is taken on record.

Learned State counsel opposed the bail application and submitted that the petitioner in connivance with co-accused tempered the proceeding register of Panchayat for obtaining the ration depot in his name. The present case against the petitioner was registered after conducting detailed preliminary inquiry and allegations against the petitioner were found to be true and as such he is not entitled to the concession of anticipatory bail.

Heard.

As per the allegation, qua the petitioner, he tempered with the Proceeding Register of Panchayat for obtaining ration depot in his name, but no such material has been placed on record that the Proceeding Register remained with the petitioner. Otherwise also, the case is based on the

documentary evidence which is already with the Investigating Agency. At this stage, custodial interrogation of the petitioner is not required for any purpose and nothing is to be recovered from him. So no useful purpose would be served by sending the petitioner behind the bars. Co-accused Mitarpal Singh, having the similar allegations, has already been granted concession of bail vide order dated 25.01.2023 passed by learned Additional District and Sessions Judge, Tarn Taran.

Accordingly, without commenting on the merits of the case, the present petition is allowed. In the event of his arrest, the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail, on his furnishing bail/surety bonds, to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer/ Investigating Officer, subject to the conditions, as provided under Section 482(2) of BNSS. It will be open for the Investigating Officer to call the petitioner to join investigation, if so required, by issuing a written notice in this regard and he shall abide by the conditions mentioned in Section 482(2) of the BNSS.

(SUKHVINDER KAUR)
JUDGE

02.07.2025.

Komal

Whether speaking/reasoned? : Yes/ No
Whether reportable? : Yes/ No