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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

CRM-M No. 16287 of 2015 (O&M)

Dated of Decision: 03.12.2015

Ranjit Singh

..... Petitioner

Vs.

State of Haryana

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASWANT SINGH

Present: Mr. Bhupinder Ghai, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Pawan Girdhar, Addl. A.G., Haryana and
Mr. Rajiv Doon, AAG, Haryana
for the respondent/State alongwith
DSP Mahavir Singh, State Crime Branch.

JASWANT SINGH, J. (ORAL)

Petitioner-Ranjit Singh has prayed for grant of anticipatory bail in case FIR No. 349, dated 17.12.2014, under Sections 420, 409, 120-B of the Indian Penal Code (Sections 406, 467, 468 and 471 of the Indian Penal Code added later on) and Section 13 (1) (d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, registered at Police Station Sadar Tohana, District Fatehabad.

As per the FIR lodged by Sh. Lekh Ram, Assistant Food and Supply Officer (in short 'AFSO'), Tohana, on inspection of the premises and records of M/s. Shivaji Foods, a rice mill, situated at Chander Kalan, Tehsil Tohana, District Fatehabad, it was found that there was misappropriation of 86000 quintals of paddy of the Food and Supply Department (in short 'the Department') for the year 2014-15. It is also alleged that Sh. Satpal Singla, Inspector of the Department, posted at the

Procurement Centre, Tohana, was actively involved in execution of such fraud and causing loss to the Department.

After conduct of investigation, it is the case of the investigating agency that fake bills of purchase of paddy from the farmers were prepared by the Commission Agents and in connivance with the Department officials, huge amounts of money were got released towards payment of such fake purchases and the booty shared. These kinds of fake transactions relate to various Commission Agents. As far as the Rice Millers are concerned, the allegations against them are that they have shown stocks of paddy purchased/received by them whereas no such paddy was purchased/received by them. The said fake entries have been shown in connivance with the Department officials.

In sum and substance, it is alleged that there is a scam of almost Rs. 14 crores of fake procurement of paddy from the farmers by the commission agents with connivance of the Department officials and thereafter, non-supply of custom mill rice by the rice millers to the Food Corporation of India.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner was earlier a Miller of M/s. Shivaji Foods, Chander Kalan (taken on lease for five years in 2013) and had worked in the same premises for only one year where the co-accused-Hapreet Singh (Proprietor of the Mill), doing the work of milling the paddy.

Learned State counsel submits that the petitioner is one of the partners alongwith other co-accused and had prepared fake documents like sureties using fake seals of Notaries & Commission Agents, prepared fake record of purchase of paddy from Tohana Mandi, prepared fake gate passes, using vehicles bearing fake registration numbers in connivance with Commission Agents and Govt. officials and fraudulently received the amount of Rs. 3,23,50,000/. He further submits that

in the statements of Gurdas son of Jarnail Singh, Munshi of M/s. Shivaji Foods and Dilbagh Singh son of Dhoop Singh, employee of DFSO, Fatehabad, recorded under Section 164 Cr.P.C. before the trial Court, active involvement of the present petitioner/accused has been revealed.

Learned counsel for the parties have been heard.

Without commenting on the merits of the case, keeping in view the nature and gravity of the offences, it is evident that the chain of the investigation cannot be completed without custodial interrogation of the petitioner and his co-accused persons.

Accordingly, the present petition is dismissed.

December 03, 2015

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**(JASWANT SINGH)
JUDGE**