

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH.

CRM M-30870 of 2016
Date of Decision: September 29, 2016

Nirankar Singh

.....Petitioner

Vs.

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.M.S. BEDI.

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Present:- Mr. Rajiv Kataria, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms.H.K. Athwal, DAG, Punjab.

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M.M.S. BEDI, J. (ORAL)

Petitioner is a retired Joint Director (Agriculture). He has been in custody in a case which was originally registered under the Essential Commodities Act and Insecticides Act on the complaint of Surinder Kumar, Fertilizer Inspector, alleging that godown of M/s Coromandal Crop Science was inspected where unauthorized manures and insecticides in heavy quantity were found under different brands. On chemical analysis, 25 samples failed whereas 10 samples were found to be as per standard prescribed.

Case of the prosecution is that Ankush Goel, co-accused, is one of the owners of above said M/s Coromandal Corp Science. The petitioner along with Director and other Joint Director of Agriculture Department have

been arraigned as accused on the basis of statement of one Sukhpal Singh claiming that Ankush Goel had told him that bribe of Rs.6 lacs to the Joint Director-Satwant Singh Brar, Rs.70000/- to the petitioner and Rs.8 lacs to the Director had been given for running the business. Similar statements had been made by Gurdeep Singh and other witnesses.

I have heard learned counsel for the petitioner and State counsel who is assisted by ASI Gurmeet Singh. A perusal of the police file indicates that the petitioner has been involved in the case under Prevention of Corruption Act where no recovery has been effected. It is also not a case where the petitioner along with other officials had been trapped or having been found demanding and accepting money.

Without expression of any opinion on merits of the case, it is sufficient to observe that as the petitioner has been in custody w.e.f. July 25, 2016; challan has already been presented; the trial is likely to take a long time, he, in such circumstances, can be granted the concession of bail on the principle of parity as co-accused have been granted the same relief.

Petition is allowed. Petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on his furnishing bail bonds/ surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court.

September 29, 2016
sanjay

(M.M.S.BEDI)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/ reasoned:	Yes/ No.
Whether Reportable:	Yes/No.