

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM No. M-11150 of 2017 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 03.04.2017

Sukhjit Singh

--Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

--Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA.

Present:- Mr. A.S. Manaise, Advocate for the petitioner.

TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA.J

The instant petition has been filed under Section 438 Cr.P.C seeking concession of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.135 dated 13.7.2008 under sections 218, 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B I.P.C , sections 13(2), 88 of Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 12(b) of Passports Act, registered at Police Station, City Moga, District Moga.

The FIR in question came to be registered on a complaint having been moved to the S.S.P., Moga with the allegations that the officials of the Passport Office, in connivance with certain police officials are issuing forged and fabricated Passports to certain citizens. In such racket there are allegations of connivance of certain Travel Agents as also employees of the Food & Supplies Department, State of Punjab as well as of the office of Registrar of Births & Deaths.

In so far as the present petitioner is concerned, he is allegedly a beneficiary of such racket as a Passport bearing no. F-9644314 dated 11.9.2006 is stated to have been issued to him and such Passport being forged and fabricated.

Counsel for the petitioner would contend that the petitioner had proceeded to Germany in the year 2002 itself on the strength of a genuine Passport and which was valid up to 15.2.2011 and as such, there was no occasion for him to apply and to get issued a fake and fabricated Passport in the year 2006.

However, in the considered view of this Court, the stand taken on behalf of the petitioner does not inspire confidence.

On a specific query having been put to the counsel, it has been conceded that the petitioner has proceeded to Germany in the year 2002 but the Passport that he held at that point of time was lost in 2003 and the counsel contends that immediately thereupon the authorities concerned in Germany were contacted for issuance of a fresh Passport. There is no explanation coming forth with regard to the interregnum period i.e. from 2003 to 2006 when the forged and fake Passport is stated to have been issued to the petitioner.

Counsel for the petitioner has very fairly brought to the notice of this Court that as per allegations the number of Passports issued in such scam is touching the number of 150 approximately.

Petitioner is also allegedly one of the beneficiaries of such fake and forged Passports.

It is a scam which involves not only citizens having secured forged and fake Passports but also involves officials working in the Passport Office, Police Department, Food & Supplies Department as also officials of the office of Registrar, Births & Deaths.

The matter would require a detailed and thorough probe. This Court against the backdrop of allegations is not inclined to protect the petitioner and insulate him by an order of pre-arrest bail.

Petition is dismissed.

(TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA)
JUDGE

03.04.2017

lucky

Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes
Whether Reportable: No