

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

**CRM NO. M-39114 OF 2016(O&M)
DECIDED ON : 01.05.2017**

Manjeet Singh

...Petitioner

versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CRM NO. M-10154 OF 2017(O&M)

Santokh Singh

...Petitioner

versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CRM NO. M-14261 OF 2017(O&M)

Gursewak Singh Bhullar

...Petitioner

versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA

Present : Mr. K. B. S. Mann, Advocate,
for the petitioner in
CRM No. M-39114 of 2016.

Mr. A. K. Sama, Advocate,
for the petitioner in
CRM No. M-10154 of 2017.

Mr. P. S. Khurana, Advocate,
for the petitioner in
CRM No. M-14261 of 2017.

Ms. Harpreet Kaur Athwal, DAG, Punjab.

TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA, J. (ORAL)

This order shall dispose of CRM No. M-39114 of 2016 (Manjeet Singh v. State of Punjab), CRM No. M-10154 of 2017 (Santokh Singh v. State of Punjab) and CRM No. M-14261 of 2017 (Gursewak Singh Bhullar v. State of Punjab), as these three petitions have been filed under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, seeking concession of pre-arrest bail to the petitioner(s) herein, in FIR No.12 dated 31.08.2016 under Sections 420/467/468/471/120-B of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 7 and 13 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, registered at Police Station Vigilance Bureau, Ferozepur, District Ferozepur.

In a nut shell, the allegations against the petitioner(s) are that, while serving as revenue officials and holding the posts of Patwari, Kanungo and Naib Tehsildar, they have acted in connivance with each other and sanctioned mutation in the back date, after receiving illegal gratification from Hardev Singh.

While issuing notice of motion, the following order was passed by this Court on 04.11.2016 in CRM No. M-39114 of 2016 :-

" Petitioner in the capacity as Patwari is alleged to have sanctioned mutation in back date after receiving illegal gratification on 21.03.2016 from Hardev Singh and on other occasions. Jaideep had allegedly videographed the act of the petitioner.

Notice to the Advocate General, Punjab, for 20.12.2016.

Meanwhile, an interim direction is issued that the petitioner will join investigation on or before 12.11.2016. In case of petitioner doing so, he shall be released on

interim bail to the satisfaction of arresting officer."

Notice of motion dated 24.03.2017 passed in CRM No. M-10154 of 2017 reads as under :-

" Inter alia contends that co-accused Manjit Singh Patwari against whom there were far more serious allegations i.e demand of illegal gratification, has been granted interim protection by this court in CRM No. M-39114 of 2016.

Notice of motion, returnable on 1.5.2017.

To be heard along with CRM No. M-39114 of 2016.

In the meanwhile, petitioner is directed to join investigation.

In the event of arrest, the petitioner shall be released on interim bail subject to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer/Investigating Officer. The petitioner shall join investigation as and when called upon to do so and he shall remain bound by the conditions envisaged under Section 438 (2) Cr.P.C."

Likewise, notice of motion dated 26.04.2017 passed in CRM No. M-14261 of 2017 reads in the following terms:-

" Inter alia contends that co-accused Manjeet Singh, Patwari and against whom there were far more serious allegations i.e demand of illegal gratification, has been granted interim protection by this court in CRM No. M-39114 of 2016.

Notice of motion, returnable on 1.5.2017.

To be listed along with CRM No. M-39114 of 2016.

In the meanwhile, petitioner is directed to appear before Investigating Officer and to join investigation.

In the event of arrest, the petitioner shall be released on interim bail subject to the satisfaction of the Arresting

Officer/Investigating Officer. The petitioner shall join investigation as and when called upon to do so and he shall remain bound by the conditions envisaged under Section 438 (2) Cr.P.C.”

Learned State counsel, upon instructions from ASI Machhinder Singh, informs the court that the petitioner(s) in these three connected petitions have since joined investigation. The entire record has already been taken into custody by the Investigating Agency. State counsel further states that custodial interrogation of the petitioner(s) is not required.

Accordingly, prayer made in these three connected petitions is accepted. All the three petitions are allowed. The orders dated 04.11.2016 passed in CRM No. M-39114 of 2016, order dated 24.03.2017 passed in CRM No. M-10154 of 2017 and order dated 26.04.2017 passed in CRM No. M-14261 of 2017 are made absolute.

All the three petitions stand disposed of accordingly.

(TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA)
JUDGE

MAY 01, 2017
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Whether speaking/reasoned : YES/NO

Whether reportable : YES/NO