

**CRM-M-21785-2018 and
CRM-M-22481-2018**

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

Date of Decision:04.07.2018

1. CRM-M-21785-2018

Navneet Singh

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

... Respondent

AND

2. CRM-M-22481-2018

Arvinder Singh

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE INDERJIT SINGH

Present: Mr. Vijay Rana, Advocate,
for the petitioner in CRM-M-21785-2018.

Mr. Raj Kumar Gupta, Advocate,
for the petitioner in CRM-M-22481-2018.

Mr. Ramandeep Sandhu, Sr. DAG, Punjab

INDERJIT SINGH, J.

This order shall dispose of CRM-M-21785-2018, filed by petitioner-Navneet Singh and CRM-M-22481-2018, filed by petitioner-Arvinder Singh, under Section 438 Cr.P.C. for grant of anticipatory bail in case FIR No.183 dated 14.09.2017, registered at Police Station Rama Mandi, Jalandhar, District Jalandhar, under Sections 409, 420, 120-B and

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Notice of motion was issued in both these petitions. Learned State counsel put in appearance on behalf of the respondent-State and contested these petitions.

I have heard learned counsel for the petitioners as well as learned State counsel and have gone through the record.

As per the prosecution version, petitioner-Navneet Singh, who is a Meter Reader, has recorded the less meter reading by conspiracy with the consumers etc. and caused a great loss to the Power Corporation whereas allegation against petitioner-Arvinder Singh is that he being the supervisor failed to supervise properly.

I have gone through the police file. There is meter reading taken by the Meter Reader sometimes back shown to be very less, whereas when the meter reading was checked by other officials, it was found to be on very higher side.

The order passed by learned Additional Sessions Judge, Jalandhar also shows that names of so many persons have been mentioned therein and less recording of meter reading has been found on their connections also.

Keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the present case, I find that custodial interrogation of petitioner-Navneet is required and, therefore, I do not find any ground to grant the benefit of anticipatory bail to petitioner-Navneet. Accordingly, petition filed by petitioner-Navneet is dismissed.

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As regarding petitioner-Arvinder Singh, there is only allegation that he is supervisor. Learned counsel for petitioner-Arvinder Singh argued that there are 16 Meter Readers under him and about one lakh electricity meter connections, he is to supervise. Keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the present case and in view of the fact that petitioner-Arvinder Singh is not to take the meter reading and he is only a supervisor, I find that at this stage, petitioner-Arvinder Singh is not required for custodial interrogation.

Keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the present case; without discussing the facts of the case in minute details and without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, I find merit in the petition filed by petitioner-Arvinder Singh and the same is allowed. It is ordered that in the event of arrest, petitioner-Arvinder Singh be released on bail subject to his furnishing personal bonds and surety to the satisfaction of Arresting/Investigating Officer. However, petitioner-Arvinder Singh shall join the investigation as and when called upon to do so and shall abide by the conditions as provided under Section 438 (2) Cr.P.C.

04.07.2018
parveen kumar

(INDERJIT SINGH)
JUDGE

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