

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

**CRM-M-26676-2018 (O&M)
Date of decision: 02.07.2018**

Ravneet Singh Sodhi

.... Petitioner

Vs

State of Punjab

.... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARI PAL VERMA

Present: Mr. Abhijeet P.S.Chaudhary, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Tanveer Joshi, AAG, Punjab.

Hari Pal Verma, J.(Oral)

Prayer in the present petition filed under Section 438 Cr.P.C. is for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.84 dated 22.05.2018 registered under Section 392 IPC at Police Station Moti Nagar, District Police Commissionerate, Ludhiana.

As per the FIR registered at the behest of Rakesh Bajaj – complainant, on 22.05.2018 in the godown owned by the complainant where manufacturing articles are kept, Budhi son of Dattadeen was an employee who was on duty. On the said date, Budhi had told the complainant that at about 1:00 am 4-5 unknown persons with muffled faces who were with iron rods, dattar, sabbal, sticks came to the godown and after threatening him got the keys of the main gate and shutter of the godown. Thereafter, the shutter of the main gate was opened and the lock of the office in the godown broken. One Samsung LED of 32', 50 bags of readymade thread containing 60 kgs each and one computer set was stolen and taken away in a Tata Ace Super vehicle. However, after threatening

to the servant of the complainant, the accused persons escaped along with the stolen articles. The employee Budhi could not read the registration number of the vehicle. It is on 01.06.2018, a secret information was received and the accused Jagjit Singh @ Baljit Singh s/o Harpal Singh, Harvinder Singh @ Bindri s/o Jagmail Singh, Lovedeep Singh @ Deepu s/o Sukhpal Singh, Bhupinder Singh @ Gagan s/o Late Resham Singh and Daljit Singh @ Gill s/o Kulwant Singh were apprehended and from their possession 20 bags of thread along with Mahindra Pick up vehicle bearing registration No.PB10FF-6179 were recovered. The present petitioner Ravneet Singh along with Jatinder Puri who were on a motorcycle No.PB10BQ-6228 managed to escape.

Learned counsel for the petitioner has argued that the present is a case of mistaken identity. The name of the petitioner is Ravneet Singh whereas the person who escaped on a motorcycle is Ramneet Singh and as per the prosecution, the person involved is Ramneet Singh. He further argued that prosecution version cannot be believed for the reason that at the initial stage, Budhi who is an employee, told the complainant that 4-5 persons had come to the godown but now prosecution has added 2-3 more persons. He further stated that the petitioner was never named in the FIR.

On the other hand, learned State counsel, on instructions from ASI Dhanwant Singh, has argued that it was on the basis of secret information that the other accused were arrested. However, all the accused except the petitioner are in judicial custody.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties.

The plea of the petitioner that it is a case of mistaken identity

cannot be accepted. On the basis of secret information, other accused were arrested and Ravneet Singh and Jatinder Puri escaped. The petitioner is not entitled to the benefit of anticipatory bail merely because he escaped. The allegations against him are serious in nature.

No ground for grant of anticipatory bail is made out.

Accordingly, the present petition is dismissed.

02.07.2018
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(HARI PAL VERMA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/non-speaking? Yes/No

Whether reportable? Yes/No