

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

Crl. Misc.No.M-22626 of 2019

Date of Decision:- 17.08.2019

Jatinder Singh

....Petitioner

VS.

State of Punjab

....Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHIR MITTAL

Present:- Mr. Ranjan Lakhanpal, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr.Ayush Sarna, AAG, Punjab.

SUDHIR MITTAL, J. (Oral)

The petitioner prays for grant of regular bail in FIR No.5 dated 6.4.2019 registered under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended upto date at Police Station, Vigilance Bureau, Jalandhar.

According to the FIR, the petitioner, who is the Reader to Station House Officer, Rama Mandi, District Jalandhar, demanded a bribe of ₹ 5,000/- for deleting the name of the complainant-Sukhvinder Singh from the list of accused persons against whom proceedings under Section 110 Cr.P.C. are normally initiated before elections. The complainant went to the Vigilance Bureau, who arrested the petitioner on the spot.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner has been in custody from over 4 months now and that even though the challan has been presented, the examination of witnesses has not started. A total of 18 PWs have been named and, thus, the trial will take a long time to conclude. No useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioner in custody till the conclusion of the trial.

Learned State counsel opposes the prayer on the ground that a member of

the disciplined force has demanded bribe and the same is a serious matter. He, however, does not dispute the fact that examination of PWs has yet to commence.

Considering the fact that examination of 18 PWs will take a considerable long time and that the petitioner has been in custody for over 4 months as on date, I deem it appropriate to release him on regular bail. It is so ordered.

The petition is allowed and the petitioner is directed to be released on regular bail on his furnishing bail and surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court.

August 17, 2019
poonam

(SUDHIR MITTAL)
JUDGE