

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

Criminal Misc. No.M-30473 of 2019(O&M)

Date of Decision: November 18, 2019

Rashwinder Singh @ Sonu

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARINDER SINGH SIDHU

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Present: - Mr.Harneet Singh Oberoi, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms.Monika Jalota, DAG, Punjab.

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HARINDER SINGH SIDHU, J.

The petitioner has filed this petition under Section 439 Cr.P.C for grant of bail in case FIR No.70 dated 07.06.2019 under Sections 409, 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC, Police Station Chamkaur Sahib, District Rupnagar.

The FIR was registered on the written information sent by Inspector Mohan Lal of CIA Staff-II, Rupnagar wherein he mentioned that on 07.06.2019 he received secret information that Ranjit Singh son of Kulwant Singh resident of Village Mehtot, his partner Sukhwinder Singh resident of Rupnagar, Shashi Kant resident of West Vihar, New Delhi, Manoj resident of Dhuri, District Sangrur, Deepak son of Shiv Kumar resident of Hoshiarpur, Gurvinder Gill @ Soni, resident of Moti Bagh New Delhi, Amarjit Singh @ Badal resident of village Thuha, Tehsil Rajpura, District Patiala and others for earning heavy profit have brought second hand cars from Maharashtra. They in connivance with the clerks and officials of registration authorities of Amloh, TaranTarn, Sangrur and Moga got them registered in the name of different persons without taking No Objection

Certificates (NOC) of the registration authorities of Maharashtra and Punjab and, by tampering the Chassis and Engine numbers of those cars. The owners of the cars have been issued fake numbers. They have been cheated by the accused in connivance with the clerks and other officials of the Registration Authorities.

The contention of the Ld. Counsel for the petitioners is that on the same allegations FIR 49 dated 12.04.2019 u/s 420, 406, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC and Sections 379 and 408 IPC was registered at P.S. Amloh. The petitioner has already been granted bail in that case. He argued that registration of a second FIR on the same allegations is an abuse of the process of law. He further argued that there is no complaint from any owner of a car that he has been sold the vehicle after tampering with the chassis and engine number.

In the reply filed on behalf of the State it has been stated that the petitioner was arrested on 15.06.2019. As per the investigation carried out so far, it has been revealed that the petitioner was directly involved in selling six cars and getting the same registered without NOC by tempering the Chassis and Engine Numbers. Details of those vehicles is :

- i. "PB-48-E-3858 in the name of Karamjit Singh resident of Khadiala.*
- ii. PB-48-E-3981 (Toyota Etios Car) in the name of Ritesh Bhandari resident of Ludhiana.*
- iii. PB-46-AC-7761 (Swift Car) in the name of Satish Kumar resident of Hoshiarpur.*
- iv. PB-48-E-3920 (Maruti Ritz Car) in the name of Baljinder Singh resident of Hoshiarpur.*
- v. PB-48-E-3674 (Skoda Rapid) in the name of Ritesh Bhandari resident of Ludhiana.*

vi. PB-13-Z-0323 (Toyota Fortuner) in the name of Anil Kumar resident of Mohali.”

It is further stated that in the thorough investigation carried out so far, it has been found that more than 14 accused along with the petitioner have been involved in this case. Out of them eight are employees of different registration authorities. It is further stated that during investigation, it has come out that the petitioner along with his co-accused have got more than 2500 vehicles registered in this manner in Punjab. It is alleged that the crime is a socio-economic offence and having direct impact upon the economy of the State.

From the above, it appears that though as per the reply of the State 2500 vehicles have been got registered by tampering with their chassis and engine numbers, however at present the petitioner's role has been established only in respect of six cars. The petitioner is in custody since 15.06.2019. No useful purpose would be served by keeping him in continued detention.

In view of the above, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, this petition is allowed. The petitioner is directed to be released on bail on his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

November 18, 2019

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(HARINDER SINGH SIDHU)
JUDGE

Whether Speaking / Reasoned	Yes
Whether Reportable	Yes / No