

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

**CRM-M-17841-2020
Date of decision: 08.07.2020**

Navtej Singh

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN

Present:- Mr. Baltej Singh Sidhu, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. A. P. S. Gill, DAG, Punjab.

(Through Video Conferencing)

ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN, J. (Oral)

The petitioner prays for grant of anticipatory bail in FIR No. 39 dated 21.06.2019, registered under Sections 379 and 120-B of the IPC at Police Station Sadiq, District Faridkot.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is an ex-serviceman and his wife remained Sarpanch of the village from 2013 to 2018 and the present FIR has been registered due to party faction in the village with the allegations that 06 inches pipes, running from Canal to water works, has been pulled out and some pipes have been misappropriated and electric motor installed at canal/river has been removed by the accused including the petitioner.

Learned counsel for the petitioner further submits that in fact after passing a resolution by the General Body of the Gram Panchayat on 24.05.2019, which was signed by 630 persons, it was decided to change the alignment of pipes as the entire village was not getting the portable water

due to existing pipeline and in fact there is only change of the alignment of the pipeline and neither any pipe nor any motor was removed from the spot.

Learned counsel for the petitioner relies upon certificate dated 30.06.2020 issued by the Sarapanch of the village, in which it is specifically stated that electric motor and pipeline of waterworks of village Kauni have not been stolen and only its alignment has been changed.

Learned counsel for the petitioner further submits that the petitioner is a senior citizen, aged about 62 years, and he is not involved in any other case.

Learned State counsel, on telephonic instructions from the Investigating Officer, has not disputed the aforesaid factual position.

In view of the above, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner is granted concession of anticipatory bail subject to conditions envisaged under Section 438(2) Cr.P.C.

However, it will be open for the Investigating Officer to call upon the petitioner to join investigation, if required, by issuing a written notice in this regard.

08.07.2020

Waseem Ansari

**(ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No