

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

**CRM-M No. 35762 of 2020
Date of decision: 06.11.2020.**

Bhani Bhatt Petitioner.
Versus
State of Punjab Respondent.

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL

Present:- Mr. Ashok Kumar Khunger, Advocate, for the petitioner.
Mr. Dhruv Dayal, Senior DAG, Punjab, for the respondent.

ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL, J. (ORAL)

Heard through video conferencing.

The petitioner is seeking anticipatory bail in FIR No. 143 dated 28.09.2020, under Section 61 of the Punjab Excise Act, 1914 ('Excise Act' - for short), registered at Police Station Bahavwala, District Fazilka.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that ninety-six nips (quarters) of Rajasthan made liquor have allegedly been recovered from the petitioner and co-accused Ram Partap alias Rana. He also contends that the co-accused has been granted *ad interim* bail by this Court by order dated 14.10.2020 passed in CRM-M No. 32689 of 2020.

Issue notice to the respondent.

At the asking of the Court, Mr. Dhruv Dayal, Senior DAG, Punjab, accepts notice on behalf of the respondent. He contends that in view of the gravity of the offence alleged to have been committed by the petitioner, he is not entitled to the concession of anticipatory bail.

Without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case and in view of the submissions of learned counsel for the petitioner, I deem it a fit case to grant the concession of anticipatory bail to the petitioner.

Therefore, the petitioner is directed to appear before the investigating officer within a period of 15 days from the date of receipt of certified copy of this order and on his doing so, he shall be released on bail to the satisfaction of the arresting/investigating officer till submission of report under Section 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 ('Cr.P.C.' - for short). The petitioner shall continue to join investigation and shall furnish an undertaking that he shall abide by the conditions as envisaged under Section 438 (2) Cr.P.C. Thereafter, he will be permitted to furnish regular bail bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court.

The petition stands disposed of in the aforementioned terms.

(ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL)
JUDGE

06.11.2020
Ramesh

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