

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

CRM-M-33347 of 2021

DECIDED ON: 20th September, 2021

Ranjit Khan

.....PETITIONER

VERSUS

State of Punjab

.....RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AVNEESH JHINGAN.

Present: Mr. J.S. Bedi, Senior Advocate with
Mr. Sonpreet Singh Brar, Advocate for petitioner.

Ms. Monika Jalota, DAG, Punjab.

AVNEESH JHINGAN, J (ORAL)

Due to COVID-19 situation, the Court is convened through video conference.

This petition under Section 439 Cr.P.C. is filed seeking regular bail in case of FIR No. 4 dated 31.3.2021, under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Sections 409, 420, 465, 466, 467, 471, 120-B IPC, 1860, registered at Police Station Vigilance Bureau, Phase-I, Mohali.

As per the allegations, the petitioner alongwith co-accused Baldev Singh asked for illegal gratification for permitting the complainant to cut and take away the trees. The petitioner is Forest Guard and co-accused was Block Officer in the Forest Department. As per the allegations, the payment of Rs.5 lakh was made on 28.3.2021 to the petitioner and co-accused. While making balance payment on 31.3.2021, Vigilance Department laid a trap and the petitioner was apprehended red handed.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that investigation is complete, challan stands presented and co-accused was granted anticipatory bail.

Learned State counsel opposes the prayer for grant of bail and she submits that it was a trap case and the petitioner was found with the notes treated with phenolphthalein powder. She further submits that Rs. 4,64,000/- and an official hammer were recovered from his car and Rs. 1,00,000/- was recovered from his house.

The petitioner is in custody since 31.3.2021. No recovery is to be made. Challan stands presented. Conclusion of trial is likely to take time. Co-accused who is Senior Officer of the petitioner has already been granted anticipatory bail. Bail is granted to the petitioner on furnishing surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Chief Judicial Magistrate/ Duty Magistrate concerned.

The petition is allowed.

It is clarified that the observations made hereinabove shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

20th September, 2021

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**(AVNEESH JHINGAN)
JUDGE**

<i>Whether speaking/reasoned</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Whether reportable</i>	<i>Yes</i>