

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

CRM-M-43960-2021

Date of Decision: 27th October, 2021

Salma Rani

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AVNEESH JHINGAN

Present : Mr. Pankaj Bali, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Geeta Sharma, Deputy Advocate General, Haryana
for the respondent-State.

AVNEESH JHINGAN , J.(Oral)

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

2. This petition under Section 439 Cr.P.C. is filed seeking regular bail in FIR No.8, dated 10.08.2021, under Sections 7, 7-A, 13(1) (b), 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and under Section 120-B of IPC, 1860, registered at Police Station State Vigilance Bureau, Karnal.

3. The FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint made by Sukhbir Singh. The allegations are that Salma Rani-petitioner posted as Halka Patwari demanded Rs.5,000/- to submit a spot inspection report of the land of the complainant. On a complaint, a trap was laid. A currency notes laced with phenolphalein powder were handed over to Satbir Singh. Ram Mehar Kanugo was accompanying Satbir Singh.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner was not apprehended from the spot. The recovery of laced currency was not made from the petitioner. The only allegation is that money was accepted

by Satbir Singh at the behest of the petitioner. The contention is that petitioner is in custody since 10th August, 2021, investigation is complete.

5. Learned State counsel opposes the prayer for grant of regular bail. She submits that Satbir Singh was working in Patwarkhana assisting the petitioner. The money was accepted on behalf of the petitioner.

6. Considering the custody period of the petitioner, the fact that petitioner was not present at the spot when the trap was laid, no recovery of marked currency notes was made from the petitioner. The investigation is complete, conclusion of the trial is likely to take time, petitioner is granted bail subject to his furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the Chief Judicial Magistrate/ Duty Magistrate concerned.

7. The petition is allowed.

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

(AVNEESH JHINGAN)
JUDGE

27th October, 2021
Parveen Sharma

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