

**229 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH
CRM-M-44580-2021
Date of Decision: 29th October, 2021**

Ram Mehar

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AVNEESH JHINGAN

Present : Mr. G.S. Sawhney, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms. Aditi Girdhar, Assistant 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 and 7-A 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, alleging that Salma Rani posted as Halka Patwari demanded Rs.5,000/- to submit a spot inspection report of the land of the complainant. On complaint, a trap was laid. Currency notes laced with phenolphalein powder were handed over to co-accused Satbir Singh by the complainant, Ram Mehar-petitioner Kanugo was accompanying Satbir Singh.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner had neither demanded nor accepted money. The recovery of laced currency was not made from the petitioner. The only allegation is that

petitioner was with Satbir Singh when currency notes were handed over.

The contention is that petitioner is in custody since 10th August, 2021 and investigation is complete.

5. Learned State counsel opposes the prayer for grant of regular bail. She submits that there are call details to show that petitioner was in constant touch with Salma Rani. She further submits that petitioner visited the field of the complainant.

6. When trap was laid, no recovery was made from the petitioner. The visit of petitioner to the field of the complainant *prima facie* is of no consequence, as spot inspection had to be done even as per the allegations. The investigation is complete, conclusion of the trial is likely to take time, co-accused was granted bail by this Court. 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

29th October, 2021
Parveen Sharma

Whether reasoned/speaking
Whether reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No