

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-23529 of 2022 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 27th May, 2022

Harpreet Singh @ Lalli

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab.

... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AVNEESH JHINGAN

Present : Mr. Kanwal Preet Singh, Advocate for the petitioner.
Mr. Amit Mehta, Senior DAG, Punjab.

AVNEESH JHINGAN , J.(Oral)

This is a petition seeking anticipatory bail in FIR No. 4 dated 22.4.2022, under Sections 7 and 7A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 120-B IPC, registered at Police Station Vigilance Bureau, Patiala.

As per the allegations made by Harbans Singh in the FIR, on 31.3.2022, an injured person in critical condition was lying on road. The complainant took him to Hospital Chanarthal Kalan with the help of passers by. After giving first aid, the doctors referred him to Government Hospital, Fatehgarh Sahib where he expired. Help of Petitioner-Harpreet Singh @ Lalli, who was working as a private typist in the court at Fatehgarh Sahib and lends his services for cremation of unclaimed bodies was sought to deposit the body of unclaimed person in mortuary. On 1.4.2022, the complainant received a call from ASI-Major Singh (hereinafter referred to

as 'ASI'). The complainant went to the police station along with the petitioner, where ASI recorded his statement and told that sixteen persons of the village of the complainant have complained that the deceased was residing with the complainant and he is responsible for the death. Rs.50,000/- bribe was demanded for not doing any investigation, Rs.10,000/- was paid to ASI on spot. The complainant was told to pay the balance amount of Rs.40,000/- to the petitioner. On 5.4.2022, Rs.40,000/- was given to ASI through the petitioner, in the presence of Rajinder Singh. On 13.4.2022, the petitioner made a phone call to the complainant calling him to Suvidha Kendar where he told that Rs.10,000/- more is being demanded by ASI, for recording the statement of the daughter of the complainant. A request was made to ASI that the petitioner is demanding Rs.10,000/- more, on which he replied that he will talk to the petitioner to reduce the amount. There is an audio recording supporting the allegations.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that it is a case of false implication to malign the image of a social worker. He relies upon the fact that ASI has been granted regular bail and no recovery is to be made from the petitioner.

Learned counsel for the State appearing on advance notice opposes the prayer for grant of anticipatory bail. He submits that there are serious allegations. There is an audio recording supporting the allegations against the petitioner. Moreover the payments were made in the presence of Rajender Singh.

The observations made hereinafter are only for the purpose of deciding the anticipatory bail petition and shall not be construed as an

expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

As per the case set up, a complainant who had helped a road accident victim was exploited by the police officials in connivance with the petitioner who is doing private typing work in the court premises of Fatehgarh Sahib. There is material with the police to lend support to allegations made by the complainant. The amount was received by the petitioner in the presence of third party. After payment of Rs.50,000/- there is subsequent demand. A deeper probe is required to un-earth the *modus operandi* being adopted by the accused.

No case is made out for grant of anticipatory bail.

The petition is dismissed.

(AVNEESH JHINGAN)

JUDGE

27th May, 2022
mk

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