

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

DECIDED ON:19th December, 2022

(1) CRM-M-32505 of 2022 (O&M)

Rajwinder Singh

.....PETITIONER

VERSUS

State of Punjab

.....RESPONDENT

(2) CRM-M-34560 of 2022 (O&M)

Om Parkash

.....PETITIONER

VERSUS

State of Punjab

.....RESPONDENT

(3) CRM-M-32661 of 2022 (O&M)

Rajinder Singh

.....PETITIONER

VERSUS

State of Punjab

.....RESPONDENT

(4) CRM-M-31056 of 2022 (O&M)

Surinder Kumar

.....PETITIONER

VERSUS

State of Punjab

.....RESPONDENT

(5) CRM-M-32467 of 2022 (O&M)

Ram Kumar

.....PETITIONER

VERSUS

State of Punjab

.....RESPONDENT

(6) CRM-M-51587 of 2022 (O&M)

Parmod Chand

.....PETITIONER

VERSUS

State of Punjab

.....RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AVNEESH JHINGAN.

Present: Mr. Vishal Satija, Advocate
Mr. Abhishek Jhamb, Advocate,
Ms. Kanika Ahuja, Advocate,
Mr. Edward Augustine George, Advocate
Mr. Naresh Jain, Advocate
Mr. Vivek Singla, Advocate for petitioners.

Mr. Arun Luthra, DAG Punjab.

AVNEESH JHINGAN, J (ORAL)

These six petitions are filed seeking regular bail in case of FIR No. 166 dated 11.10.2017 under Sections 409/420/465/467/468/471/477-A/120-B IPC and under Section 13(1)(c) and 13(1)(d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, registered at Police Station City Malout, District Sri Muktsar Sahib.

As per the case set up, Sandeep Singh, Junior Assistant in the office of Punjab Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Malout, manipulated salary bills of the employees, GPF account of another employees and embezzled Rs.1.33 crores by getting the amount deposited in his three bank accounts. As per the allegations the accused involved in preparation, verification and release of the salary were in connivance with each other.

The petitioners are in custody as follows:-

Name of petitioner	Official status	Custody since
Rajwinder Singh	Senior Assistant	25.5.2022
Parmod Chand	Executive Engineer	14.6.2022
Surinder Kumar	Superintendent	25.5.2022
Om Parkash	Senior Assistant	25.5.2022
Ram Kumar	Senior Assistant	25.5.2022
Rajinder Singh	Executive Engineer	05.6.2022

Learned counsel for the petitioners rely upon the custody period of the petitioners for seeking bail and submit that the investigation is complete challan stands presented, no recovery was made from the petitioners and they are not involved in any other case.

Learned State counsel opposes the prayer for bail and on instructions from ASI Sukhwinder Singh submits that the petitioners in connivance with each other embezzled the salaries of the employees of the Punjab Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Malout.

Without commenting upon the merits of the case, considering that no recovery was made from the petitioners, they were named in disclosure statement, no further recovery is to be made, they have no criminal antecedents and though investigation is complete, conclusion of trial is likely to take time, bail is granted to the petitioners on furnishing surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Chief Judicial Magistrate/ Duty Magistrate concerned.

The petitions are allowed.

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

Since the main case has been decided, the pending application(s), if any is rendered infructuous.

Photocopy of this order be placed on the files of connected cases.

19th December, 2022

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**(AVNEESH JHINGAN)
JUDGE**

<i>Whether speaking/reasoned</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Whether reportable</i>	<i>No</i>