

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

CRM-M-35814 of 2022 (O&M)

DECIDED ON: 22nd August, 2022

Navdeep Singh @ Navdeep Pathania

.....PETITIONER

VERSUS

State of Punjab

.....RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AVNEESH JHINGAN.

Present: Mr. Umesh Aggarwal, Advocate for petitioner.

Mr. Sandeep Kumar, DAG Punjab.

AVNEESH JHINGAN, J (ORAL)

Petitioner is seeking regular bail in case of FIR No.7 dated 19.6.2022, under Sections 7 and 7-A of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, registered at Police Station Vigilance Bureau, Amritsar.

As per the case set up complainant-Kanwaljit Singh stated that he had purchased a house in Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar. Officials of Kotak Mahindra Bank came at his residence and informed that loan is pending against his house. He wanted to check from the record of Improvement Trust with regard to pendency of the loan. He approached Dinesh Khanna, clerk in Sale Branch, Improvement Trust who demanded Rs.50,000/- for showing the file. The deal was struck for Rs.25,000/-, Dinesh Khanna stated that he will send the person along with the file and that the bribe money be handed over to him. On a complaint trap was laid, petitioner was apprehended and laced currency notes and photocopies of the file were recovered from him.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is not a public servant. As per the case set up, he was acting upon on instructions of co-accused Dinesh Khanna. He had not demanded illegal gratification. The contention is that investigation is complete.

Learned State counsel opposes the prayer and submits that the petitioner was apprehended at the spot, photocopies of the file and bribe money were recovered from him. However, on instructions from Inspector Vijay Pal Singh he submits that the petitioner is not involved in any other case.

Without commenting upon the merits of the case, considering the role attributed to the petitioner, no recovery is to be made from him, he has no criminal antecedents, though investigation is complete conclusion of trial is likely to take time, 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.

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

22nd August, 2022

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**(AVNEESH JHINGAN)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned *Yes*

Whether reportable *No*