

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

217a

CRM-M-46532-2021

Date of decision : 06.01.2022.

Gauri Shankar

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.. Respondent

CORAM :HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL

Present:- Mr. Manjinder Singh Saini, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Karanbir Singh, AAG, Punjab

Anupinder Singh Grewal, J. (Oral)

Heard through video conferencing.

The petitioner is seeking anticipatory bail in FIR No. 0089 dated 13.10.2021, under Sections 420, 409 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, besides Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, registered at Police Station Ajitwal, District Moga.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the FIR is registered on the basis of secret information that the petitioner is selling wheat meant for distribution to blue card holders to the general public at costly rates. He, however, contends that there is no specific instance of selling wheat to any person other than blue card holders. No complaint has been made by any individual against the petitioner, who is running a flour mill and also a depot holder for the last 20 years for supplying wheat to blue card holders. The officials of the Food and Supplies Department had checked the stock and no shortage was found. The petitioner is being arraigned as an accused at the behest of politically influential business rival.

This Court, by order dated 03.11.2021 had directed the petitioner to appear before the Investigating Officer and join investigation and in the event of his arrest, he was ordered to be released on ad-interim bail to the satisfaction of the Investigating/Arresting Officer, subject to the conditions envisaged under Section 438(2) Cr.P.C.

Learned State counsel, upon instructions from ASI Malkeet Singh, states that the petitioner has joined investigation.

In view of the above and the petitioner having joined investigation, the Covid-19 Pandemic, the order dated 03.11.2021 granting interim bail to the petitioner is made absolute.

However, the petitioner shall abide by the conditions stipulated under Section 438(2) Cr.P.C. He shall also join investigation as and when called upon to do so.

The petition stands disposed of.

(ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL)
JUDGE

January 06, 2022

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Whether speaking/reasoned	:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable	:	Yes/No