

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

DECIDED ON: 16th November, 2022

(1) CRM-M-43054 of 2022 (O&M)

Raj Karan

.....PETITIONER

VERSUS

State of Haryana

.....RESPONDENT

(2) CRM-M-43850 of 2022 (O&M)

Vinod Kumar

.....PETITIONER

VERSUS

State of Haryana

.....RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AVNEESH JHINGAN.

Present: Mr. Vikram Singh, Advocate for petitioner.

Mr. Gurmeet Singh, AAG Haryana

AVNEESH JHINGAN, J (ORAL)

These two petitions are filed seeking regular bail in case of FIR No. 371 dated 27.5.2022, under Sections 409, 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC, 1860 and Section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, registered at Police Station Sector 32-33 Karnal, District Karnala.

The relevant facts are that on a complaint made by Vikas Sharma, an inquiry was conducted. The allegations were that entry of 33 BPL ration cards were forged and their record was not found in the BPL list prepared by the Government. Vinod Kumar (petitioner) was the Depot holder and Raj Karan (petitioner) was nominee and running the Depot of Vinod Kumar. It is further alleged that the food grains meant to be distributed to BPL family were *siphoned off* by this *modus-operandi*.

Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the petitioners are in custody since 28.5.2022, investigation is complete and challan stands presented.

Learned State counsel opposes the prayer and submits that BPL cards were forged in connivance with the Food and Supply Department, resultantly 31 BPL families were deprived of their entitled ration to be distributed to them. However, he fairly submits that the challan was presented qua the petitioners.

Without commenting upon the merits of the case, considering the nature of allegations and the fact that the case is *prima-facie* based upon documentary evidence, 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, if any is rendered infructuous.

Photocopy of this order be placed on the file of connected case.

16th November, 2022

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**(AVNEESH JHINGAN)
JUDGE**

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