

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

**CRM-M-50446 of 2022 (O&M)**

**DECIDED ON: 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2022**

**Ragbir Singh**

**.....PETITIONER**

**VERSUS**

**State of Punjab**

**.....RESPONDENT**

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AVNEESH JHINGAN.**

Present: Mr. P.S. Paul, Advocate for petitioner.

Mr. V.G. Jauhar, Addl.AG Punjab.

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**AVNEESH JHINGAN, J (ORAL)**

This petition is filed seeking regular bail in case of FIR No. 69 dated 28.6.2022, under Sections 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC 1860, and Sections 7, 7(A), 8, 13(1) read with Section 13(2) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 ( for short 'the Act') (added later on), registered at Police Station Nurpur Bedi, District Rupnagar.

As per the case set up, the accused in connivance with each other sold land to the Forest Corporation at a higher rate. Petitioner indulged in practice of purchasing pieces of small land from the small peasants at a lower rate. The allegations are that tender was applied through a person who was not the owner of the land and mobile number of some other person was given. Further allegations are of tampering the document relied upon for fixing the rate. The Sarbat Da Bhala Charitable Trust, Patiala, was the co-sharer in some of the land which was allegedly exchanged and thereafter sold to Forest Corporation.

The role attributed to the petitioner is that while being posted as Naib Tehsildar at Sri Anandpur Sahib, he made entries at Nurpur Bedi, in the revenue record in connivance with other accused.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is in custody since 8.8.2022, investigation is complete and challan stands presented. He further relies upon the fact that vendors of land had today in the petition filed for anticipatory bail had made an offer that they would return the amount and the sale deed be cancelled, they have been granted interim anticipatory bail. He further submits that petitioner was given an additional charge of Nurple Bedi on 31.8.2020 and in pursuance to that he made entries in Revenue record. He further submits that till date no sanction under Section 19 of the Act has been received.

Learned State counsel on instructions opposes the prayer. However, he is not disputing the fact that investigation qua the petitioner is complete, challan stands presented and no sanction till date has been received.

Without commenting upon the merits of the case, considering that the investigation is complete, no further recovery is to be made, petitioner being Government official there is *prima-facie* no chance of his absconding, sanction is yet to be received, 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.