IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-38262-2022
Reserved on : January 23, 2023
Date of Decision: January 30, 2023

Ranjit Singh **…Petitioner**

Versus

State of Punjab **…Respondent**

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA

Present:- Mr. Nippun Sharma, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Parneet Singh Pandher, AAG, Punjab.

DEEPAK GUPTA, J.(Oral)

By way of this petition filed under Section 439 Cr.P.C., petitioner has prayed for grant of regular bail in case FIR No.14, dated 20.02.2021, registered at Police Station Cantonment Jalandhar, District Jalandhar, under Sections 406, 420 / 34 of IPC.

2. FIR was lodged on the complaint of one Vishal Joshi, as per which, he was contacted by the petitioner and other co-accused, informing that they are government approved Whizz power (M/s OLS Whizz Pvt. Ltd.) and are running a multi level marketing company, in which petitioner Ranjit Singh and Gagandeep Singh are Directors. In sync with the schemes of their company, they used to charge ₹1,000-₹2000/- per month in advance and in lieu thereof would give LED T.V., Home Theatre, CCTV etc. Complainant became the member of the company. In 2017, another scheme namely Gold Kitty was introduced in which petitioner and others used to charge ₹2,000-₹3,000/- individually for 11 months period. The 12th installment was promised to be paid by the petitioners themselves. Option was then given to purchase either gold or to take the money in cash. This way by alluring the complainant, the

petitioner and others received ₹2,20,000/- from downline team and another ₹32,53,000/- on the pretext of gold kitty. The money was deposited in the company account through the website of the company whose login was provided. The website was used to display the receipt of the amount. It is alleged that petitioner and others acting in their pre-conceived design displayed digital currency in the digital wallet of their company. On contacting them, false assurances were given. For some time, gold was given as per scheme but in the year 2019, neither any gold was given to any member nor the amount was returned. Rather, for refund, petitioner and the other members like him were asked to introduce more members in the scheme. In February, 2020, accused stopped even receiving the calls. Complainant also came to know that accused had cheated thousands of people like him and had duped them in crores of rupees. Various FIRs were lodged against the accused. Complainant prayed for taking action so as to recover his amount of ₹ 34,73,000/-.

3. It is submitted by the petitioner that 63 complainants had earlier lodged an FIR No.199 dated 17.07.2020, at Police Station Division No.7, Jalandhar, under Sections 406/420 IPC against him (petitioner), his wife Navdeep Kaur, besides Gagandeep Singh, Gurminder Singh and Mandeep Kaur on the similar allegations to the effect that they were group of distributors and had been defrauded by the petitioner and others to the tune of ₹25 crores approximately. The number of defrauded persons was stated to be about ten thousand. Petitioner submits that he surrendered on 22.07.2020 in case FIR No.199 dated

17.07.2020. As per the final report submitted by the police in that case, actual amount allegedly siphoned off by him and others is to the tune of ₹ 7,83,98,662/-. Vide order dated 26.07.2021 passed in CRM-M-43315-2020, titled as "***Ranjit Singh vs State of Punjab***", he has already been allowed bail in that case. Petitioner submits that he was behind bars since 22.07.2020 and during his custody, 25 more FIRs were registered against him. It is submitted that complainant of this case was already one of the complainant in case FIR No.199 dated 17.07.2020 and that subsequent FIRs have been lodged at the instance of different complainants.

It is also contended by learned counsel that amount was allegedly deposited by the complainant in the account of the company but the company has not been arrayed as an accused.

With these submissions, prayer is made for grant of regular bail.

4. The police report reveals that the petitioner is involved in as many as 26 FIRs. Details of all those FIRs are given in the tabular form and it is revealed that he has been acquitted in 2 cases. Offence has been compounded in 8 cases and petitioner is under trial in 16 cases. He has been allowed bail in 9 cases, whereas bail application/petition has been dismissed by different Courts in 7 cases, whereas bail applications are pending in 4 cases.

5. A perusal of the table reveals that almost all the FIRs have been lodged under the similar offences. It is revealed that petitioner along with others *prima facie* cheated gullible investors by alluring and offering them unrealistic returns and various other people fell in their

trap. Complainant and others have been defrauded to the extent of crores of rupees.

6. As far as contention of the petitioner that the company has not been arrayed as an accused is concerned, it has no merit as it is the petitioner, who along with co-accused had made the representation to the complainant and others by offering them unrealistic returns in alluring them.

7. Keeping in view the aforesaid facts and circumstances, particularly the criminal antecedents of the petitioner but without commenting further on the merits of the case, this Court is of the view that the petitioner does not deserve to be given the benefit of bail.

As such, present petition is dismissed.

January 30, 2023 **(DEEPAK GUPTA)**
sarita **JUDGE**

Whether reasoned/speaking: Yes/No
Whether reportable: Yes/No