

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

CRM-M-40509-2022

Reserved on : January 24, 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 under Section 439 Cr.P.C., petitioner has prayed for grant of regular bail in case FIR No.17 dated 16.02.2021, registered at Police Station Division No.3, District Jalandhar, under Sections 406, 420 /34 of IPC.

2. FIR was lodged on the complaint of one Pancham Wadhwa w/o Rajiv Wadhwa, initially against Smt. Vandana Sethi, Smt. Meena Sethi & Aditya Sethi, as per which these accused had informed the complainant that they are directors of M/s OLS Whizz Pvt. Ltd., having various branches all over the country. Complainant and various other people were allured to believe that if any person invested amount in Kitty for 11 months, then they will get the benefit of one installment from the company besides gold in lieu of invested amount. Complainant and others were also allured of foreign visit. An amount of ₹9,20,000/- was invested by the complainant with the accused till July, 2020. When 12th instalment was expected to be deposited by the company and gold was to be given, accused locked the premises and fled. Complainant also came to know that accused had cheated thousands of people like her and had

duped them in crores of rupees. Various FIRs were lodged against the accused. Complainant prayed for taking action so as to recover her amount of ₹9,20,000/-.

3. Complaint moved by group of complainants was inquired into by ADCP Investigation, who found fraud to the tune of ₹ 21 Crores and recommended for registration of FIR. It was found that Sukhwinder Singh had got registered FIR No.199 dated 17.07.2020, at Police Station Division No.7, Jalandhar, under Sections 406/420 IPC against Ranjit Singh (petitioner), Gurminder Singh and Sheela Devi on the similar allegations. SIT was constituted. During investigation conducted by SIT, Smt. Vandana Sethi, Smt. Meena Sethi & Aditya Sethi were found innocent; whereas petitioner Ranjit Singh & Gagandeep Singh were nominated as accused.

4. 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 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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
sarita

(DEEPAK GUPTA)
JUDGE

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