



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

218

CRM-M-39932-2024

Date of decision: 25.11.2024

Jeet Singh

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

Present : Mr. Pankaj Bali, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Mr. Navdeep Singh, DAG, Punjab.

MANJARI NEHRU KAUL, J. (ORAL)

1. The instant petition is for granting anticipatory bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.20 dated 13.05.2024, registered under Section 7, 7-A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 as amended vide the amendment Act, 2018, registered at Police Station Vigilance Bureau, Ludhiana.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that there was no occasion for the petitioner to demand bribe as the mutation pertaining to the properties of the complainant already stood sanctioned.

3. Learned State counsel on instructions, however, has disputed the submissions made by the counsel opposite. It has been asserted by learned State counsel on instructions that mutation had been sanctioned only qua one of the three properties of the complainant whereas qua the other two properties, it was still pending; the petitioner had sought bribe for getting the mutation sanctioned qua other two

remaining properties. It has also been submitted that demand of bribe was made from the mobile phone number belonging to the none other than the petitioner and further more there was an audio recording also to the said effect.

4. Learned State counsel in support has drawn attention of this Court to Annexure R-1 and Annexure R-2 which is transcript of the audio video recording between the complainant and the petitioner dated 24.04.2024 and 13.05.2024 wherein the alleged demand of bribe clearly stands reflected. Learned counsel submits that the custodial interrogation of the petitioner is required in view of the specific allegations levelled against him.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the material placed on record.

6. *Prima facie* there are serious and specific allegations levelled against the petitioner. This Court is not inclined to extend the extraordinary concession of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in the facts and circumstances enumerated hereinabove. The present petition is dismissed accordingly. However, it is made clear that anything observed hereinabove shall not be construed to be an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

25.11.2024
anil

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

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