

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

210-2

CRM-M-56598-2023
Date of Decision:10.01.2024

RANJIT SINGH

.....Petitioner

Vs.

STATE OF PUNJAB

.....Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA

Present:- Mr. Liaqat Ali, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms. Kanica Sachdeva, AAG, Punjab.

DEEPAK GUPTA, J.(ORAL)

Status report by way of affidavit of Simranjit Singh, PPS, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sub-Division Phillaur has been filed on behalf of respondent-State. The same is taken on record.

On 09.11.2023, following order was passed:

“By way of present petition filed under Section 438 Cr.P.C., petitioner prays for grant of anticipatory bail in case FIR No.90 dated 30.08.2023 registered under Section 61/1/14 of Excise Act, at Police Station Bilga, District Jalandhar.

At the outset, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that similarly placed co-accused Panja Singh has already been granted the benefit of interim anticipatory bail by this Court vide order dated 08.11.2023 passed in CRM-M56418 of 2023, copy of which has been made available on record. The said order granting anticipatory bail qua co-accused Panja Singh reads as under:-

“Prayer in this petition filed under Section 438 Cr.P.C. is for grant of anticipatory bail in case FIR No.90, dated 30.08.2023, under Section 61 of the Punjab Excise Act, 1914, registered at Police Station Bilga, District Jalandhar Rural.

As per allegations, a secret information was received that

petitioner along with Ranjit Singh and Manvir Singh used to indulge in distilling and sale of illicit liquor in their car make Esteem of silver colour bearing registration No.PB-25-C-0081 and that they are coming in the area of village Bilga. Finding the information to be reliable, case was registered. Nakabandi was laid. At the spot, Manvir Singh was apprehended from the car, but the other two occupants, i.e. petitioner and Ranjit Singh fled away from the spot. On search of the car, 400 bottles of illicit liquor were recovered.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that petitioner has been falsely implicated; that in fact the story of the prosecution appears to be improbable because in case, any nakabandi was laid by the police party, it is not possible that two of the occupants of the car will flee away in the presence of the police officials. Learned counsel further contends that petitioner is ready to join the investigation and that he has no criminal antecedent.

Notice of motion.

Mr. R.S. Khaira, DAG, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State. A copy of paper book be supplied to him during the course of day.

Adjourned to 10.01.2024 for filing status report.

In the meantime, petitioner is directed to join investigation and cooperate in the same. He will not leave the country without prior permission of the Court nor shall make any attempt to contact the complainant of the case or any witness associated with the case. In the event of the arrest of the petitioner, he shall be released on interim bail on his furnishing personal/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer/Investigating Officer. He shall also abide by conditions as envisaged under Section 438(2) Cr.P.C.”

Notice of motion.

Mr. M.S. Nagra, AAG, Punjab, accepts notice on behalf of the

respondent- State. Copy of the petition be supplied to him during course of the day.

Adjourned to 10.01.2024 for filing status report.

In the meantime, in case of his arrest, the petitioner shall be released on interim bail subject to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer/ Investigating Officer. However, it is further directed that the petitioner shall join the investigation as and when so required by the Investigating Officer. He shall not contact any person associated with the case to dissuade him from the investigation in any manner whatsoever and nor shall leave the country without prior permission of the Court. He shall further comply with the conditions stipulated in Section 438(2) Cr.P.C.

To be listed along with CRM-M-56418 of 2023.”

Today learned State counsel, on instructions submits that petitioner has since joined the investigation and is not required for custodial interrogation.

Having regard to the aforesaid facts and circumstances, but without commenting anything further on the merits of the case order dated 09.11.2023 is hereby made absolute, whereby petitioner was granted interim anticipatory bail.

However, the petitioner shall continue to join the investigation as and when called upon to do so by the Investigating Agency and shall abide by the conditions of Section 438 (2) Cr.P.C.

10.01.2024

pry

(DEEPAK GUPTA)
JUDGE

Whether Speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether Reportable	Yes/No