

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

**CRM-M-61237-2023 (O&M)
Date of decision : 15.02.2024**

Ankit Verma

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU

Present: Mr. Ranjeet K. Jaswal, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Neeraj Madan, Sr. DAG, Punjab for the respondent.

MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU, J.

Present petition has been filed under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for grant of pre-arrest bail to the petitioner in FIR No.269 dated 22.10.2023, under Sections 420 & 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, registered at Police Station Patran, District Patiala.

(2) Above FIR was registered on the basis of complaint made by Secretary Market Committee with the allegations that petitioner hatched a criminal conspiracy with co-accused and dishonestly sold 318.15 quintals of paddy in the State of Punjab after its purchase from other State at a much lower price than the MSP in violation of the Instructions of State of Punjab.

(3) This Court, while issuing notice of motion on 06.12.2023, granted interim bail to petitioner and the order reads as under:-

“Notice of motion.

On asking of the Court, Mr. C.L.Pawar, Addl. A.G., Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the respondent and seeks time to have instructions and/or file written response in the matter.

Posted for 15.02.2024.

In the meanwhile, petitioner shall join investigation before the Investigating Officer. In the event of arrest, the Arresting Officer would admit him to interim bail in the present case, till the next date of hearing, on furnishing adequate bail and surety bonds to his satisfaction. The petitioner is also directed to abide by all the conditions as envisaged under Section 438(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.”

(4) Learned Counsel submits that in pursuance of the aforesaid order, petitioner has already joined the investigation and his custodial interrogation is not required.

(5) Learned State Counsel, on instructions from ASI Jagtar Singh, acknowledged that petitioner has joined investigation and as on today, his custodial interrogation is not required.

(6) In view of above, interim order dated 06.12.2023 is made absolute subject to the conditions as envisaged under Section 438(2) Cr.P.C.

(7) It is also made clear that petitioner shall fully co-operate with the Investigating Officer as and when called for further investigation.

(8) The above observations may not be construed as an expression of opinion on merits of the case; rather confined only to decide the present bail matter.

- (9) It is clarified that in case there is recurrence on the part of the petitioner, State would be at liberty to move an appropriate application for recalling of this order.
- (10) Disposed off accordingly.
- (11) Pending application(s), if any, shall also stand disposed off.

15th February, 2024
Gagan

(MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes
Whether Reportable	Yes