



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
NAGPUR BENCH : NAGPUR

CRIMINAL APPLICATION(ABA) NO. 650 OF 2025

Prakash Krushnarao Bhurchandi Vs. State of Maharashtra

Office notes, Office Memoranda of
Coram, appearances, Court's orders
or directions and Registrar's orders.

Court's or Judge's Orders.

Mr. P.R.Agrawal, counsel for the applicant.
Mr.Anant Ghogare, APP for the State.

CORAM : MRS. VRUSHALI V. JOSHI, J.

DATE : 15/12/2025

1. This is an application filed for grant of anticipatory bail in connection with Crime No.541/2024 registered on 20.06.2024 with Saoner Police Station for the offence punishable u/s 409, 420 & 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

2. The brief facts of the prosecution case are that Shri Manojkumar Bapurao Hirudkar, BDO, had lodged a complaint on the basis of the inquiry report submitted by the inquiry committee constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Accountant & Finance Officer and Block Development Officer and the Education Officer of Zilla Parishad Nagpur. In the said inquiry report which came to be submitted on

27.05.2024 it was found that the scheme floated by the Central Government for the upgradation of the Anganwadi and providing better facility. The Central Government has provided the fund of Rs.2,00,000/- each for Anganwadi, and in this way 49 such Anganwadis came to be identified to afford the benefits and accordingly Rs.98,00,000/- came to be sanctioned. Similarly, for the day-to- day affairs of the smooth functioning of the Anganwadi, Rs.3,000/- per Anganwadi was approved and accordingly, 271 such Anganwadis came to be identified, for a total worth of Rs. 8,13,000/-. In this way the Central Government has provided fund total amounting to Rs.1,06,13,000/- at the district level for the aforesaid purpose. Accordingly, the further Nodal Agency of the Zilla Parishad to undertake the activity of identifying such Anganwadi who are in need of such upgradation in terms of requirement of various articles like television and other articles for the better functioning of such Anganwadi's and accordingly the said upgradation activities required to be undertaken.

3. The Child Development Project Officer, Saoner, was assigned the work to do the activity by way of following the due process and the modality provided by the Central Government for purchasing the aforesaid articles and the equipment by strictly adhering to the process with regard to the policy that the best article should be purchased at the

reasonable price for the aforesaid purpose. The CDPO, without adhering to the established process of floating the tenders for purchasing the aforesaid equipment, has directly entertained the quotation of three of such suppliers, including the applicant, who is the proprietor of Shri Book Depot and General Stores, Yavatmal. The applicant was given the order to supply the equipment for 4 Anganwadi situated at Mouza, Ajni, Hatisara, Ghosewadi and Jaitapur and there were other suppliers also who were given the order by the said CDPO and they were also directed to supply the equipment without verifying the actual market price or comparing the price with the Government E-Marketing. During investigation it was found that in the aforesaid activity Rs. 4,91,340/- loss is caused to the state exchequer by way of purchasing the articles and equipment by paying more price than a market price or the price ascertained by the GEM. In the entire project the other supplier was also deployed and he has also adopted the same illegal modus operandi of supplying the articles on a higher price than the government approved price and caused loss to the state exchequer by way of drawing more price than the approved government price of GEM or the market price. The FIR is registered.

4. The learned counsel for the applicant has stated that application of this applicant is withdrawn before this Court. Other accused involved in the identical crimes, who

have filed the applications before Hon'ble Apex Court have granted anticipatory bail. As other co-accused are protected, this applicant has filed the second bail application as there are change in circumstance. This applicant has during his interim protection granted by this Court has attended the police station and exchanged the articles. The notice was issued to this applicant on 18.02.2025 and he had attended the police station. He is available for enquiry in this matter and is ready to co-operate the investigating machinery. As the other co-accused are also protected by Hon'ble Apex Court and this applicant is attending the police station, the case is made out to protect the applicant by granting anticipatory bail. Hence, the following order:

i] Criminal Application is allowed. It is directed that in the event of arrest of the applicant- Prakash Krushnarao Bhurchandi in connection with Crime No.541/2024 registered on 20.06.2024 with Saoner Police Station for the offence punishable u/s 409, 420 & 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, he be released on bail on furnishing PR. Bond in the sum of Rupees Twenty Five Thousand with one surety in the like amount.

ii] The applicant shall not in any way tamper with the prosecution evidence.

iii] The applicant shall not pressurize or threaten the prosecution witnesses.

iv] The applicant shall attend the concerned police station as and when called by the Investigating Officer.

v] The applicant shall co-operate the investigating officer.

Criminal Application stands disposed of.

JUDGE