

2026.PHHC.065250



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

273

CRM-M-14695-2026

Date of decision: 28th April, 2026

Kuldeep Singh

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

Present: Mr. J.K. Singla, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Durgesh Garg, Assistant Advocate General, Punjab.

MANISHA BATRA, J (ORAL):-

The present petition has been filed under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') by the petitioner seeking grant of anticipatory bail in case bearing FIR No. 14 dated 19.01.2026 registered under Section 318(4) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNS') at Police Station City Budhlada, District Mansa.

2. The aforementioned FIR was registered on the basis of statement recorded by the complainant Sarabjit Singh posted as Senior Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Budhlada, alleging therein that the petitioner was working on contract basis with one Grates India Private Limited and had been working as Arogya Mittar at Civil Hospital, Budhlada. By misusing his powers, he started making cards under Chief Minister Health Scheme for providing free treatment up to Rs. 10,00,000/- despite the fact that there were no guidelines

2026.PHHC.065250



to issue cards under the aforementioned scheme. He had issued cards to two persons namely Bhagwant Singh and Ranjit Kaur under the same scheme, which had not even been implemented by Government of Punjab by doing so, he had committed fraud with the government. As such, prayer had been made for taking action.

3. After registration of FIR, investigation proceedings have been initiated and are underway. Apprehending his arrest, the petitioner moved an application for grant of pre-arrest bail before the learned Sessions Judge, Mansa, which was dismissed vide order dated 28.01.2026.

4. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that he has been falsely implicated in this case. He was working as a computer operator at Civil Hospital, Budhlada and had been assigned duty of apply/filling forms on computer/website on behalf of the persons, who came in hospital for getting benefit under the Chief Minister Scheme for providing treatment up to Rs. 10,00,000/-. His work was restricted to that extent only. No card had been issued by him rather the same had been issued by the competent authority by firstly getting it approved by district level and then by the State level. He has no role to play in preparing or issuing any card. He has been made a scape-goat. The actual facts have been manipulated. He is ready to join the investigation. His custodial interrogation is not required. No recovery is to be effected from him. The ingredients for commission of subject offences are not attracted against him. It is, therefore, argued that the petition deserves to be allowed.

2026.PHHC.065250



5. Status report has been filed. Learned State counsel has argued that the allegations against the petitioner are serious in nature. For conducting thorough and proper investigation in the matter, custodial interrogation of the petitioner is must. There is no exceptional or extra ordinary circumstance to grant benefit of bail to him. Therefore, it is stressed that the petition does not deserve to be allowed.

6. This Court has heard the rival submissions made by learned counsel for the parties at considerable length.

7. The petitioner who was working as a computer operator/ Arogya Mittar at Civil Hospital, Budhlada on contract basis and was assigned the duty of filling forms on computer/website of the department, is alleged to have prepared cards under the Chief Minister Health Scheme for providing free treatment upto Rs. 10,00,000/-. The allegations are that the scheme has not even been implemented by the State government at the time when he had prepared the cards in favour of two persons namely Bhagwant Singh and Ranjit Kaur and there were no guidelines with regard to preparing cards. The allegations against him make out a case of misuse of his power and defrauding the government. For the purpose of conducting thorough and proper investigation in the matter, custodial interrogation of the petitioner is required. In case his custodial interrogation is denied to the Investigating Agency, that will leave many glaring loopholes and gaps thereby adversely affecting the investigation. The powers of anticipatory bail are extra ordinary and the same are to be exercised sparingly and in exceptional circumstances. The Court

2026.PHHC.065250



must be circumspect while exercising such power for grant of anticipatory bail and it should not be granted as a matter of rule and has to be granted only when the Court is convinced that exceptional circumstances exist to resort to that extra ordinary remedy. In the present case, no such exceptional circumstances warranting exercise of the powers for grant of anticipatory bail by this Court are existing. Keeping in view the gravity of allegations as levelled against the petitioner, the quantum of sentence which the conviction may entail and the attendant facts and circumstances of the case, this Court is of the considered opinion that the petition does not deserve to be allowed. Accordingly, the same is dismissed.

8. It is, however, clarified that the observations made hereinabove shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.
9. Since the main petition has been dismissed, pending application, if any, is rendered infructuous.

[MANISHA BATRA]
JUDGE

28th April, 2026
Parveen Sharma

1. Whether speaking/ reasoned : Yes / No
2. Whether reportable : Yes / No