

2026:PHHC:077220



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

217

CRM-M-18698-2026
Date of decision: 18.05.2026

DR. HARKIRAT GILL

... Petitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY.

Present : Mr. Vinod Ghai, Sr. Advocate with
Mr. Arnav Ghai and Mr. R.S. Bagga,
Advocates for the petitioner

Ms. Manjot Kaur, AAG, Punjab.

AMAN CHAUDHARY, J. (ORAL)

1. Prayer in the present petition filed under Section 483 BNSS is for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.01 dated 30.01.2026 under Section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended vide the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 registered at police station Economic Offences Wing, Punjab, Vigilance Bureau, Ludhiana, District Ludhiana.

2. Learned counsel submits that the petitioner has been in custody for the last 03 months and 14 days. There is no direct evidence of demand or acceptance of payment relating to tainted money; she is 52 years of age, working as SMO, voice samples have been taken for which the case was adjourned, co-accused, from whom the tainted money was recovered, has already been granted bail vide order dated 24.04.2026; challan stands presented on 25.03.2026; charges are yet to be framed; there are 36 prosecution witnesses in all and is not involved in any other case.

3. Learned State counsel opposes the bail on the grounds that demand of money was made by the petitioner, recovery of which was effected from the co-accused. However, he is unable to controvert the submissions with regard to stage of the case; the petitioner being not involved in any other and the co-accused, from whom tainted money was allegedly recovered, having been enlarged on bail.

4. Heard.

5. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, in particular that the petitioner is in custody for the last 03 months and 14 days; not involved in any case; co-accused is on bail; challan having been presented but charges are yet to be framed; and there are total 36 PWs; the trial is likely to take a considerable time and further incarceration of the petitioner would be violative of his right enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, the present petition is allowed.

6. The petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on her furnishing requisite bail bond/surety bond to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate, concerned.

7. It is made abundantly clear that in case, there is any breach of the conditions imposed by the Court concerned, the State shall be at liberty to seek cancellation of bail as granted to the petitioner by this order.

8. In view of the above, it is clarified that the observations made herein above are limited for the purpose of present proceedings and would not be construed as any opinion on the merits of the case and the trial would proceed independently of the aforesaid observations.

(AMAN CHAUDHARY)
JUDGE

18.05.2026

Rajender

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No