

COURT OF 3rd DISTRICT & ADDITIONAL SESSIONS JUDGE, MUZAFFARPUR
{A.B.P. No. 1450/2026}
(In connection with Turki P.S. Case No. 282/2025)

Page 1 of 2

Ranjan Kumar, aged about- 40 years, S/o- Jawahir Sah
R/o-Village- Sumera P.S.- Turki, Distt.- MuzaffarpurPetitioner.
Vs.
State of Bihar.....Opposite Party.

ORDER

18.05.2026. Instant application for grant of anticipatory bail has been filed on behalf of petitioner named above who apprehends his arrest in connection with Turki P.S. Case No. 282/2025 registered for the offences punishable U/s. 7 of Essential Commodities Act.

Heard Mr. Anand Kumar Patel, learned advocate for the petitioner as well as Ms. Sangita Sahi, learned Addl. P.P. for the State.

Prosecution case, in brief, is that informant a Block Supply Officer conducted physical verification of P.D.S. shop of the petitioner on 12.09.2025 and noticed deficit of 112.53 quintal wheat and 408.28 quintal rice compared to the stock in the POS machine and the petitioner did not produce any evidence of the deficit food-grains whose total value is Rs. 19,35,248.45.

As per F.I.R. petitioner caused loss of the above amount to the State and embezzled food-grains for his benefit.

Ld. Advocate for the petitioner has submitted that petitioner is quite innocent. He has no criminal antecedents and no bail has been filed earlier on his behalf before either this court or the Hon'ble High Court, Patna. Allegation against him is totally false. Petitioner is a licensed Public Distribution System dealer and alleged shortage of food-grains actually arose due to distribution of grains during COVID-19 lock-down when the E-POS machine was non-functional and the Block Supply Officer had given oral order for distributing food-grains to consumers in presence of local Ward Representatives and accordingly, petitioner distributed the food-grains which is recorded in the distribution register approved by B.S.O. with signatures of consumers and witnesses. Learned advocate has further submitted that no consumer has ever complained of non-receipt of food-grains and petitioner handed over the E-POS machine to the authorities. Moreover, petitioner is ready to co-operate in the

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Page 2 of 2

Contd..... investigation and obey the direction of the court. Hence, he may be granted anticipatory
18.05.2026 bail.

Learned Addl. P.P. for the state has vehemently opposed the prayer for anticipatory bail.

After hearing learned advocates from both sides, this court perused the certified copy of F.I.R., the copy of documents filed on behalf of petitioner, copy of case diary and then finds that petitioner has claimed that he has distributed the food-grains on the oral order of Block Supply Officer and he has filed photocopy of distribution register which also finds support from the statement of witness mentioned in para no. 12 of the case diary. The nature of the offence and the materials in the case diary is such that custodial interrogation of the petitioner does not seem to be necessary.

So, considering the nature of allegation against the petitioner, documents filed on his behalf and materials in the case diary as discussed above, this court is inclined to grant petitioner anticipatory bail.

Accordingly, in the event of arrest or surrender within 30 days of passing of this order, petitioner namely Ranjan Kumar is directed to be released on his furnishing bail bond of Rs.10,000/-(rupees ten thousand) with two sureties of like amount subject to the condition as mentioned under Section 482(2) of B.N.S.S.

Let a copy of this order be forwarded to the court of S.D.J.M., Muzaffarpur (West) for information & needful.

Dictated.
Sd/-
(Awadesh Kumar)
3rd Addl. Sessions Judge
Muzaffarpur.