



2026:CGHC:12534



2026:CGHC:12534

NAFR

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

MCRC No. 1264 of 2026

Abhishek Soni S/o Shri Ramadhar Soni, Aged About 32 Years Cooperative Inspector, Office Of The Deputy, Commissioner Of Cooperation And Deputy Registrar Of Cooperative Societies and Authorized Officer Of Maa Salesvari , Bahudeshiya Kisan Utpadak Sahkari Samiti Maryadit Tukudah Panjiyan Kramank 455, District- Surguja, Chhattisgarh R/o Village Chitarpur Ps. Lundra . District- Surguja, Chhattisgarh

... Applicant

versus

State Of Chhattisgarh Through P.S. Anti - Corruption Bureau Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh

...Non-applicant

For Applicant : Mr. Harpreet Singh, Advocate.

For Non-applicant/State : Dr. Sourabh Pande, Dy. Advocate General.

Hon'ble Shri Ramesh Sinha, Chief Justice

Order on Board

16.03.2026

1. This is the first bail application filed under Section 483 of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for grant of regular bail to the applicant who has been arrested in connection with Crime No. 69/2025 registered at Police Station – Anti-Corruption Bureau Ambikapur (C.G.), for the offences punishable under Section 7 of the



Prevention of Corruption Act, amended 2018.

- 2.** Case of the prosecution, in brief, is that the complainant, Shri Shubham Jaiswal, applied for a contractual Accountant position in a multipurpose cooperative society in Surajpur District under the National Cooperative Development Corporation's scheme. After being declared the sole eligible candidate following a typing test and interview on 05/12/2025, the applicant being a Cooperative Inspector and Authorized Officer, allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs. 1,50,000/- for issuing the appointment order. Following a verification of the complaint by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Ambikapur, which confirmed the demand, a case was registered under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018). Upon completion of the investigation, a charge sheet was filed on 24/01/2026, and the matter is currently pending as Special Case No. 02/2026, with the court scheduling arguments on the framing of charges for 10/2/2026.
- 3.** Learned counsel for the applicant submits that the applicant is innocent and has been falsely implicated in the present case. It is alleged that the applicant demanded a bribe for performing his official work; however, in fact, no such demand was ever made as there was no work pending before the applicant. The selection process in question was governed by the "Implementation Guidelines" (Condition 10.3), and since the complainant was the only eligible candidate, the appointment was merely a procedural outcome and not a matter of discretion, thereby rendering the allegation of demand of bribe logically inconsistent. It is further submitted that the complainant,



being the sole candidate, apprehended delay in his appointment and has misused the ACB machinery to exert undue pressure upon the applicant, resulting in his false implication. In corruption cases, the substantial part of the investigation is generally completed on the day of the trap and arrest itself, and the remaining procedures are merely official formalities which do not require the continued detention of the accused. The applicant is a career Government servant who has already been placed under deemed suspension due to his detention, causing severe professional and financial hardship. His service record is otherwise unblemished and therefore his continued pre-trial incarceration is unwarranted.

4. On the other hand, learned State Counsel opposes the bail application of the present applicant.
5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the case diary.
6. Considering the overall facts and circumstances of the case, the nature and gravity of the allegations levelled against the applicant, and further taking into account that the charge-sheet has already been submitted before the competent Court and the applicant has remained in jail since 17.12.2025, and the conclusion of the trial is likely to take some time, this Court is inclined to grant regular bail to the present applicant.
7. Let the Applicant – **Abhishek Soni**, involved in Crime No. 69/2025 registered at Police Station – Anti-Corruption Bureau Ambikapur (C.G.), for the offences punishable under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, amended 2018, be released on bail on his



2026:CGHC:12534

furnishing **personal bond** with **two local sureties** in the like sum to

the satisfaction of the Court concerned with the following conditions:-

(i) The applicant shall file an undertaking to the effect that he shall not seek any adjournment on the dates fixed for evidence when the witnesses are present in court. In case of default of this condition, it shall be open for the trial court to treat it as abuse of liberty of bail and pass orders in accordance with law.

(ii) The applicant shall remain present before the trial court on each date fixed, either personally or through his counsel. In case of his absence, without sufficient cause, the trial court may proceed against him under Section 269 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

(iii) In case, the applicant misuses the liberty of bail during trial and in order to secure his presence, proclamation under Section 84 of BNSS. is issued and the applicant fails to appear before the court on the date fixed in such proclamation, then, the trial court shall initiate proceedings against him, in accordance with law, under Section 209 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

(iv) The applicant shall remain present, in person, before the trial court on the dates fixed for (i) opening of the case, (ii) framing of charge and (iii) recording of statement under Section 351 of BNSS. If in the opinion of the trial court absence of the applicant is deliberate or without sufficient cause, then it shall be open for the trial court to treat such default as abuse of liberty of bail and proceed against him in accordance with law.

8. Office is directed to send a certified copy of this order to the trial Court concerned for necessary information and compliance forthwith.

Sd/-

(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice