

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

**CRM-M No.20147 of 2015  
Date of Decision: 19.09.2015**

Stephen Masih @ Motta

..... Petitioner

Vs.

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASWANT SINGH**

Present: Mr. M.K.Dogra, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. K.S.Sidhu, DAG, Punjab for the respondent/State  
along with ASI Balwinder Singh.

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**JASWANT SINGH, J. (Oral)**

The prayer is for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in Case FIR No.116 dated 05.07.2008, under Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code, registered with Police Station Civil Lines, Batala (**Annexure P-1**).

As per the allegations, the petitioner has collected the installments of the complainant/finance company towards financing of sale of TV, Refrigerator etc. and not forwarded the same to the company.

Learned Counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is in custody since 15.04.2015 and, therefore, prays for grant of regular bail.

Learned State Counsel, on instructions from, ASI Balwinder Singh, submits that the trial has already been considerably delayed due to the petitioner having abstained from the proceedings since 2013 leading to his being declared as a proclaimed offender on 28.02.2013. He further submits that the case is now fixed for recording of prosecution evidence on 25.10.2015.

Keeping in view the conduct of the petitioner, as fully detailed in the order dated 04.06.2015 (**Annexure P-3**), passed by the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Gurdaspur while rejecting his similar prayer, this Court is not inclined to grant the concession of regular bail.

Accordingly, the present petition is dismissed, however, learned trial Court is requested to conclude the trial within three months from the next date of hearing i.e. 25.10.2015.

Disposed of.

**September 19, 2015**  
Gagan

**(JASWANT SINGH)**  
**JUDGE**