

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

Crl.Misc.No.M-23864 of 2015(O&M)

Date of Decision : 31.07.2015

Harbhajan Singh

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE MAHESH GROVER

Present : Ms. Rupinder Kaur Thind, Advocate for the petitioner

Mr. P.J.S.Hundal, AAG, Punjab

MAHESH GROVER, J.

The petitioner prays for grant of regular bail in terms of Section 439 Cr.P.C in case FIR no. 146 dated 29.12.2008 registered under Sections 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC at Police Station City Hoshiarpur.

The petitioner and other co-accused were involved in duping the bank of an amount of more than Rs.2 crores by collecting the cheques and presenting them for encashment by forging the signatures. It is stated by the petitioner that all the co-accused have been released on bail but the petitioner who is a proclaimed offender is still in custody after having surrendered on 6.2.2014. It is further stated that trial has not progressed satisfactorily.

Learned counsel for the respondents on the other hand opposes the bail as more than Rs.2 crores of the bank were siphoned off.

Noticing the fact that the petitioner is in custody since February, 2014 and trial has not concluded so far even though it is magisterial, I would like to accept the instant petition keeping in view the

period of custody of the petitioner and delay in trial and the fact of all the co-accused being enlarged on bail. Ordered accordingly. It is directed that the petitioner be released on bail in terms of Section 439 Cr.P.C. Bail to the satisfaction of learned Trial Court.

Nothing said herein shall be construed to be an expression on the merits of the case.

July 31, 2015
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(Mahesh Grover)
Judge