

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

CRM M-14181 of 2017 (O&M)

Date of decision: 02.06.2017.

Mandeep Singh

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE JITENDRA CHAUHAN

Present: Mr. R.S. Cheema, Sr. Advocate with
Mr. AS Cheema, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. Luvinder Sofat, AAG, Punjab.

Jitendra Chauhan, J. (Oral)

This is a petition under Section 439 Cr.P.C for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in FIR No.12 dated 26.08.2015 registered under Sections 13(1)(e) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 120-B IPC at Police Station Vigilance Bureau, Phase-I, Mohali.

Learned Senior counsel contends that the petitioner is able to furnish satisfactory explanation for the assets held by him as reflected in the chart prepared by the I.O. It is further asserted that the assets lawfully owned by the wife and two sons of the petitioner, who are income tax assesseees, have also been included, therefore, it is contended that it is a matter of trial whether the petitioner is found in possession of disproportionate assets or not. The petitioner is in custody since 28.02.2017.

On the other hand, the learned State counsel submits that the challan stands presented. The charges are yet to be framed. There are 93 witnesses cited in the list of prosecution witnesses.

Heard.

Keeping in view the fact that the petitioner is a retiree and it is a matter of trial whether the petitioner holds properties disproportionate to his known sources of income; challan stands presented; there are 93 prosecution witnesses, the charges are yet to be framed, therefore, it can safely be inferred that the conclusion of trial will take a long time; and the petitioner is in custody since 28.02.2017, without commenting on the merits of the present case, the present application is allowed. It is ordered that the petitioner be released on bail on his furnishing bail bonds and surety bonds to the satisfaction of trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

Anything observed herein shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

02.06.2017.
SN

(JITENDRA CHAUHAN)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether reportable : Yes/No