

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

214

CRM-M-16664-2018

Date of Decision: September 26, 2018

Mani Ram

.....Petitioner(s)

versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SUDHIR MITTAL

Present: Mr. Harsh Manocha, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Kirat Singh Sidhu, DAG, Punjab.

Sudhir Mittal, J. (Oral)

The petitioner-Mani Ram son of Ganga Ram seeks regular bail in FIR No. 262 dated 21.12.2017 registered at Police Station Division No.6, Ludhiana, under section 22 of the NDPS Act, 1985.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner has been in custody since 21.12.2017. The investigation is complete, charges have been framed but only one prosecution witness has been examined till date. Thus, the trial is not likely to be concluded at an early date. The petitioner does not have any criminal antecedents and thus, he be released on regular bail.

The factual averments recorded hereinabove are not denied by the learned State counsel. He however, submits that commercial quantity of contraband was recovered from the petitioner.

Keeping in view the fact that the petitioner has been in custody for almost nine months now and that he has no criminal antecedents, no useful purpose

would be served by keeping the petitioner in custody indefinitely. Only one prosecution witness has been examined till date and therefore, the trial is not likely to be concluded very soon.

Thus, it would be appropriate to release the petitioner on regular bail.

In view of the above, this petition is allowed and the petitioner- Mani Ram son of Ganga Ram, is ordered to be released on bail on his furnishing bail and surety bonds to the satisfaction of learned trial Court concerned at Ludhiana.

September 26, 2018

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[SUDHIR MITTAL]
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned :	Yes
Whether Reportable :	No