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

**CRM-M No. 38065 of 2017
Date of Decision: 29.01.2018**

Ranjodh Singh @ Jodha @ Bhola

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDIP AHLUWALIA

Present: Mr. Parminder Singh Sekhon, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. Luvinder Sofat, A.A.G., Punjab.

SUDIP AHLUWALIA, J. (ORAL)

In this petition, the petitioner seeks his release on regular bail in F.I.R. No.352, dated 01.11.2016, under Sections 22/61/85 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, Sections 25/54/59 of the Arms Act, and Section 411 of the Indian Penal Code, registered at Police Station City Barnala, District Barnala.

2. Seen the Reply of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sub Division Barnala, filed on behalf of the State.

3. It transpires that the petitioner is involved in eight more criminal cases. He was convicted in three of those cases, bearing F.I.R. No.346, dated 31.10.2016, F.I.R. No.351, dated 01.11.2016 and F.I.R.

No.74, dated 16.03.2017. But none of the aforesaid cases involve any offence under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act, 1985.

4. Interestingly, the present F.I.R. was one of the three separate F.I.Rs. drawn up against the petitioner in the same Police Station on the same date, i.e. 01.11.2016, and one day earlier, he was also implicated in F.I.R. No. 346.

5. In the given circumstances, the petitioner's allegation of having been motivatedly implicated by the Police Authorities of a particular Police Station cannot be discarded outright.

6. It further transpires that as many as eighteen witnesses have been cited in the challan submitted in the case. Trial commenced with framing of charge on 19.03.2017 followed by evidence starting from 19.04.2017. Over this period, only one witness from the prosecution side has been examined. As such, there is little likelihood of an expeditious completion of trial in near future.

7. Considering all these circumstances, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner, namely Ranjodh Singh @ Jodha @ Bhola son of Kulwant Singh, is directed to be released on regular bail subject to appropriate terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Ld. Trial Court/Illaq Magistrate, concerned.

29.01.2018

Apurva

(SUDIP AHLUWALIA)
JUDGE

1. Whether speaking/ reasoned : Yes/ No

2. Whether reportable : Yes/ No