

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

CRM-M-43078-2018

Date of decision: October 26, 2018

Jaspreet Singh @ Kalu

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJ SHEKHAR ATTRI

Present: Mr. Sukhmeet Singh, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Saurav Khurana, DAG, Punjab.

RAJ SHEKHAR ATTRI, J.(ORAL)

The present petition has been filed under Section 439 Code of Criminal Procedure for grant of regular bail to petitioner-Jaspreet Singh @ Kalu in case FIR No.228 dated 23.10.2017 registered for the offences punishable under Section 22 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (for short, 'the Act'), 1985 at Police Station Baghapurana, District Moga.

It is a case of commercial quantity of the contraband as 105 grams of narcotic powder was recovered from the petitioner, which is a commercial quantity. Therefore, provisions under Section 37 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act is applicable. In a recent judgment Hon'ble the Supreme Court in case *Satpal Singh Vs. State of Punjab, 2018 (5) RCR (Criminal) 152* has discussed in detail with regard to bail in commercial quantity of the contraband which read as under:-

3. Section 37 of the NDPS Act reads as follows :-

*“Offences to be cognizable and non-bailable – (1)
Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal
Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) -*

(a) every offence punishable under this Act shall be cognizable;
(b) no person accused of an offence punishable for [offences under section 19 or section 24 or section 27A and also for offences involving commercial quantity] shall be released on bail or on his own bond unless -
(i) the Public Prosecutor has been given an opportunity to oppose the application for such release, and
(ii) where the Public Prosecutor opposes the application, the court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that he is not guilty of such offence and that he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail.(2) The limitations on granting of bail specified in clause (b) of sub-section (1) are in addition to the limitations under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) or any other law for the time being in force, on granting of bail.]” (Emphasis supplied)

4. Under Section 37 of the NDPS Act, when a person is accused of an offence punishable under Section 19 or 24 or 27A and also for offences involving commercial quantity, he shall not be released on bail unless the Public Prosecutor has been given an opportunity to oppose the application for such release, and in case a Public Prosecutor opposes the application, the court must be satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the person is not guilty of the alleged offence and that he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail. Materials on record are to be seen and the antecedents of the accused is to be examined to enter such a satisfaction. These limitations are in addition to those prescribed under the Cr.P.C or any other law in force on the grant of bail. In view of the seriousness of the offence, the law makers have consciously put such stringent restrictions on the discretion available to the court while considering application for release of a person on bail.”

It has been argued that earlier, petitioner was granted interim bail. This fact has already been discussed by the learned Judge, Special Court, Moga in Para No.2 of his order.

No case is made out to grant regular bail.

Petition is dismissed.

However, learned trial court is directed to expedite the trial and dispose of the same within six months.

(RAJ SHEKHAR ATTRI)
JUDGE

October 26, 2018
m. sharma

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No