

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

CRM-M-45579-2017

Date of decision:-18.4.2018

Pritpal Singh

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE H.S.MADAAN

Present: Mr. Amandeep Singh Rehal, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr.Ramandeep Sandhu, Sr.D.A.G., Punjab.

H.S. MADAAN, J.

This petition for regular bail has been filed by Pritpal Singh –
an accused in FIR No.172 dated 31.12.2015, under Sections
419/420/465/567/468/471/120-B IPC, registered at Police Station
Balachaur, District SBS Nagar.

Briefly stated, the facts of the case as per prosecution version
are that petitioner Pritpal Singh impersonated as Lakhwant Singh selling
his land to Jagroop Singh receiving lakhs of rupees. After registration of
formal FIR when the matter was investigated, accused could not be
arrested and was declared as a proclaimed offender on 27.10.2016. He
was arrested on 24.8.2017 and presently he is in custody. The petitioner

had moved an application for regular bail, which was dismissed by learned Additional Sessions Judge, SBS Nagar vide order dated 27.10.2017, as such, he has approached this Court asking for similar relief.

Notice of the petition was given to respondent – State and counsel representing the State has put in appearance.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties besides going through the record.

Learned counsel for the petitioner has contended that in the trial, which took place against co-accused of the petitioner, namely, Surinder Kumar @ Bittu, Kulwinder Singh, Prem Chand, Lamberdar,, they have been acquitted of the charge framed against them by Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Balachaur vide judgment dated 18.3.2017 and in all likelihood, the same verdict would be returned in favour of the petitioner. He is behind bars for the last several months, as such, he be granted regular bail.

Whereas, learned State counsel has contended that the past conduct of the petitioner disentitle him for grant of bail inasmuch as he had absconded after registration of FIR and could be arrested with great difficulty, therefore, if released on bail, there are chances of his doing that again; that report was called from the Court concerned and Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Balachaur vide report dated 24.1.2018 has intimated that out of 22 witnesses cited by the prosecution, 11 witnesses have been examined, two witnesses have been given up and time of six months would be required to complete the trial.

Considering the fact that the petitioner is the main accused, who had been declared proclaimed offender earlier, there is every possibility of his running away from the process of law and trying to tamper with the prosecution evidence, if granted regular bail.

Thus, finding no merits in the petition, the same stands dismissed.

However, while parting with the discussion, the trial Court is directed to conclude the trial expeditiously preferably within a period of three months from the date of receipt of copy of this Court in the said Court.

18.4.2018
Brij

(H.S.MADAAN)
JUDGE

Whether reasoned/speaking : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No