

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

Sr. No.209

CRM-M-40137-2018

Date of decision : 7.2.2019

Manmeet Singh

..... Petitioner

VERSUS

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHIR MITTAL

Present: Mr. BS Bhalla, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Mr. Luvinder Sofat, AAG, Punjab

SUDHIR MITTAL, J. (Oral)

The petitioner seeks regular bail in case FIR No.61 dated 30.4.2018, registered at Police Station Dharamkot, District Moga, under Sections 420, 120-B IPC.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner has been in custody since 3.5.2018. Although, charges have been framed, no PW has been examined till date. There are total 13 PWs and thus, the trial is not likely to be concluded at an early date. Apart from that there is no criminal case pending against the petitioner. The case of the prosecution is also doubtful as the allegation is that the complainant deposited a sum of Rs.52 lakhs with the accused persons on the assurance that the money shall be invested in some business abroad and that the complainant would be facilitated in settling abroad. If the bank statement of the petitioner is perused, it would show that small amounts of Rs.5,000/-, Rs.10,000/- etc. have been received and in case the said money was on account of investment purposes, large amounts would have been deposited. Thus, the petitioner be released on regular bail.

Learned State counsel opposes the prayer on the ground that

according to the investigation, a sum of Rs.14 lakhs has come into account

of the petitioner out of total a sum of Rs.52 lakhs. The petitioner in connivance with the co-accused has duped the complainant of large sum of money and thus, he does not deserve the concession of regular bail. It is also stated that the petitioner is a resident of Jammu and in case bail is granted to him, he may abscond.

Without commenting upon the merits of the controversy and keeping in view the custody period of the petitioner as well as the fact that the trial is not likely to be concluded at an early date, I deem it appropriate to allow this petition. Accordingly, the petition is allowed and petitioner-Manmeet Singh, is ordered to be released on bail on his furnishing bail and surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court concerned. It shall be ensured that a local surety is furnished while granting the bail to the petitioner.

(SUDHIR MITTAL)
JUDGE

7.2.2019

Ramandeep Singh

Whether speaking / reasoned

Yes / No

Whether Reportable

Yes/ No