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HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR**M.Cr.C.No.1907 of 2020**

1. Prakash Tekam S/o Mehru Ram, aged about 31 years, R/o Village Madingpiding, Police Station Mohla, District Rajnandgaon (CG)
2. Sanju Kumar Khunte S/o Shri Makhan Khnute, aged about 23 years, R/o Village Bharsena, Police Statrion Ambagarh Chauki, District Rajnandgaon (CG)

---Applicants

Versus

State of Chhattisgarh Through the Police Station Mohla, District Rajnandgaon (CG)

---Non-applicant

And**M.Cr.C.No.2035 of 2020**

Ravikant Sonwani S/o Shri Krishna Sonwani, aged about 21 years, R/o Village Bhadsena, Police Station Ambagarh Chauki, Rajnandgaon, District Rajnandgaon (CG)

---Applicant

Versus

State of Chhattisgarh Through the Police Station Mohla, District Rajnandgaon (CG)

---Non-applicant

For Applicants	:	Mr.S.S.Baghel, Advocate
For Non-applicant	:	Ms Sunita Jain, Govt.Advocate

Hon'ble Shri Justice Sanjay K. Agrawal
Order on Board

2/6/2020

1. Since the aforesaid two bail applications have been filed against the same crime number i.e. Crime No.32/2020, therefore, they

are being disposed of by this common order.

2. These are two applications filed under Section 439 of the Cr.P.C. for grant of regular bail to the applicants, who have been arrested in connection with Crime No.32 of 2020, registered at Police Station-Mohla, District-Rajnandgaon (CG), for the offence punishable under Section 34(2) of the Chhattisgarh Excise Act.
3. Case of the prosecution, in brief, is that, 72 bulk liters of illicit liquor was seized by the police from the present applicants.
4. Learned counsel for the applicant submits that the applicants have not committed any offence and they have falsely been implicated in crime in question. Applicants-Prakash Tekam and Sanju in M.Cr.C.No.1907 of 2020 are in jail since 27.2.2020 and applicant-Ravikant Sonwani in M.Cr.C.No.2035 of 2020 is in jail since 29.2.2020.
5. On the other hand, learned counsel for the State opposes the bail applications.
6. I have heard counsel appearing for the parties and perused the case diary.
7. Taking into consideration the condition incorporated in Section 59-A(ii) of the C.G. Excise Act, 1915, and bearing in mind the principles of law laid down in the matter of **Banti Singh v. State of Chhattisgarh**¹, if the facts of present case are examined, it is apparent that there is no criminal antecedent of the present applicants and 72 bulk liters of illicit liquor has been seized from

¹ 2015(2) C.G.L.J. 341

them which is more than prescribed limit of 5 bulk liters, but looking to the fact that it is first offence of the applicants and they are in custody from 27.2.2020 and 29.2.2020 respectively and case is triable by the Judicial Magistrate First Class and trial is likely to take some more time and further taking into account the nature and gravity of offence and plea raised by the applicants that they have falsely been implicated in case, I am of the opinion that present is the fit case, in which, the applicants should be enlarged on regular bail.

8. Accordingly, the bail applications filed under Section 439 of the Cr.P.C. are allowed. It is directed that on furnishing a personal bond in the sum of ₹ 25,000/- each with one surety in the like sum to the satisfaction of the concerned Court for their appearance as and when directed, the applicants shall be released on bail, subject to following conditions:

- That, the applicants shall furnish a specific undertaking that while on bail, they will not commit any excise offence, otherwise bail granted to them shall be liable to be cancelled and shall co-operate the prosecution during trial.
- That, the accused/applicants shall make themselves available for interrogation before the concerned Investigating Officer as and when required and the accused/applicants shall not, directly or indirectly, make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the

case so as to dissuade him/her from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer.

- That, the accused/applicants shall not act, in any manner, which will be prejudicial to fair and expeditious trial.

9. It is made clear that if the applicants have already been released on bail pursuant to the bail bonds already furnished in view of the order passed by the High Power Committee constituted in compliance of the order of the Supreme Court of India dated 23.3.2020 in the matter of In **Re : Contagion of COVID 19 Virus in Prisons** (Suo Motu Writ Petition (C) No.1/2020), they need not furnish bail bonds afresh and the bail bonds already furnished shall be deemed to be the bail bonds furnished in compliance of the order of this Court, but if they have not furnished bail bonds earlier, then they will be required to furnish bail bonds.

Sd/-

(Sanjay K. Agrawal)
JUDGE

B/-