

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR**M.Cr.C. No. 3075 of 2020**

1. Sunil Chouhan, S/o Sudama Chouhan, Aged about 25 years, Occupation – Driver, presently R/o Village Goverdhanpur, Police Station Chakradhar Nagar, Raigarh, Tahsil and District Raigarh (C.G.)

2. Hemant Singh, S/o Basant Singh, aged about 23 years, Occupation – Labourer, R/o Goverdhanpur, Police Station Chakradhar Nagar, Raigarh, Tahsil and District Raigarh (C.G.) (In jail)

---- Applicants**Versus**

State of Chhattisgarh, Through – Station House Officer, Police Station – Kortwali, Outpost-Jutmill, District : Raigarh (C.G.)

---- Non-applicant

For Applicants : Mr. Ashish Gupta, Advocate.
For Non-applicant / State : Mr. Mateen Siddiqui, Dy. Advocate General.

Hon'ble Shri Justice Sanjay K. Agrawal**Order On Board****09/06/2020**

(1) Proceedings of this matter have been taken up through video conferencing from High Court Premises at Bodri, Bilaspur.

(2) The accused/applicants have preferred this bail application under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for releasing them on regular bail during trial in connection with Crime No. 353/2020 registered at Police Station – City Kotwali, Raigarh, District Raigarh (C.G.) for the offence punishable under Sections 34(2) & 59(A) of the CG Excise Act and Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code.

(3) Case of the prosecution, in brief, is that 15.600 bulk liters of illicit liquor was seized by the police from the present applicants.

(4) Learned counsel for the applicants submits that the applicants have been falsely implicated in the crime in question as they have not committed any offence. He further submits that as the applicants are in custody since 14.05.2020 and the trial is likely to take some time for its final disposal, they may be released on bail.

(5) On the other hand, learned counsel for the State opposes the bail application.

(6) I have heard the 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 **Banti Singh v. State of Chhattisgarh** (M.Cr.C. No.6846 of 2014, decided on 05.01.2015), if the facts of present case are examined, it is apparent that only 15.600 bulk liters of illicit liquor has been seized from them which is more than prescribed limit of 5 bulk liters, but looking to the fact that the applicants are in custody since 14.05.2020, case is triable by the Judicial Magistrate First Class, 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 application filed under Section 439 of the Cr.P.C. is allowed. It is directed that on furnishing a personal bond in the sum of Rs.25,000/- 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 23.03.2020 in the matter of **In Re : Contagion of COVID 19 Virus in Prisons** (Suo Moto 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 the bail bonds earlier, then they will be required to furnish bail bonds.

Sd/-

(Sanjay K. Agrawal)
Judge

D/-

