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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM-M No.495 of 2020 (O&M)

Date of decision: 16.10.2020

Gurjeet Singh @ Jeeta

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN

Present:- Mr. Yashpal Thakur, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Joginder Pal Ratra, DAG, Punjab.

ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN J. (Oral)

Prayer in this 2nd petition is for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in FIR No.154 dated 01.12.2018, registered under Section 22 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Sirhind, District Fatehgarh Sahib.

The earlier one was dismissed as withdrawn on 11.04.2019.

Counsel for the petitioner has argued that the petitioner is in custody for the last 01 year and 10 months and he is not involved in any other case as per the Custody Certificate filed in the Court today. It is further submitted that charges were framed in this case on 20.04.2019, however, out of 18 prosecution witnesses, only 07 PWs have been examined and for the last 07 months, there is no progress in trial due to COVID-19 situation.

Counsel for the State has not disputed the factual position and submits that the petitioner is not involved in any other case.

Without commenting anything on merits of the case,

CASE HEARD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING

considering the fact that the petitioner is in custody for the last 01 year and 10 months; the petitioner is not involved in any other case and the conclusion of the trial will take long time due to COVID-19 situation, this petition is partly allowed and the petitioner is directed to be released on interim bail till 30.01.2021 subject to his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Illaqa Magistrate/Duty Magistrate.

However, the trial Court, after assessing the situation, if the trial has not started in ordinary course and the evidence is recorded, may cancel or may continue the interim bail granted to the petitioner till further orders.

(ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN)
JUDGE

16.10.2020
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Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No

Whether reportable: Yes/No