

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

CRM-M-4554 of 2019

DATE OF DECISION : 05.10.2020

Gurpal Singh @ Happy

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN MONGA

Present : Mr. G. S. Sandhu, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. Sidakmeet Sandhu, AAG, Punjab.

(Presence marked through video conference).

ARUN MONGA, J. (ORAL)

This is a petition for grant of regular bail in FIR No.176 dated 06.10.2018 under Section 22 of NDPS Act, registered at Police Station City Sri Muktsar Sahib.

2. Per FIR, 1440 tablets of Clovidol 100 SR were recovered from the petitioner, without any permit or license.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that petitioner has been falsely implicated. No independent witness was joined, though the alleged recovery was from a thorough fare. He further submits that petitioner is not involved in any other case. Yet, he is in custody since 06.10.2018. There is no headway in the trial due to conditions caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

4. On the other hand, learned State counsel opposes the bail plea. He argues that quantity recovered from the petitioner is commercial in nature.

5. On a query of the Court, learned State counsel does not controvert that there is no other case pending against the petitioner. As regards the status of trial, he submits that the same is held up after recording statement of three prosecution witnesses and unlikely to conclude anytime soon due to current pandemic conditions.

6. The petitioner is stated to be in custody since 06.10.2018. The trial is not likely to commence or conclude any time soon on account of current pandemic conditions.

7. In the premise, the instant petition is allowed. Petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on his furnishing bail bonds and surety bonds to the satisfaction of trial Court/Illaqa Magistrate/ Duty Magistrate.

OCTOBER 05, 2020
shalini

(ARUN MONGA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned :

Yes/No

Whether reportable :

Yes/No