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

**CRM 11028 of 2020 in/and
CRM-M-8265 of 2020 (O&M)
Date of decision: May 21, 2020**

Charanjeet Singh

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU

Present: Mr. J.S. Mehendiratta, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Luvinder Sofat, AAG, Punjab.

MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU, J

CRM 11028 of 2020

This is an application for preponing the date of hearing from 06.07.2020 to an early date.

Notice of the application to counsel opposite.

With the consent of both the parties and for the reasons mentioned in the application, the same is allowed. The main case is preponed from 06.07.2020 and taken up for hearing today itself.

CRM M-8265 of 2020

Present petition has been filed under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (for short 'Cr. P.C.') for grant of bail pending trial to the petitioner, in FIR No.412 dated 17.11.2019, under Sections 420, 489-A, 489-B, 489-C and 489-D of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (for short 'IPC'), registered

at Police Station Sadar Mansa, District Mansa.

Contends that the petitioner is in custody since 17.11.2019 and after investigation, challan has already been presented and even charges are also framed. Also contends that in view of the present Covid scenario the trial is not making any progress and the petitioner is being unnecessarily incarcerated. Also contends that there is no other criminal case pending against the petitioner.

The above factual position has been duly acknowledged by learned State counsel, but opposed the prayer and submitted that since the petitioner has committed very serious offence, therefore, no ground is made out to grant him bail.

Heard both sides and perused the paper-book.

As per prosecution case, accused in furtherance of common intention of each other have prepared and used the fake currency notes. On search of the petitioner, counterfeit currency notes of Rs.25000/- were recovered from him.

Undisputedly, petitioner is in custody since 17.11.2019; investigation is already over; charges were framed on 04.02.2020 and no PW has been examined due to the present Covid scenario, therefore, trial is likely to take sufficient long time. There is no other criminal case pending against the petitioner except the present one. Thus, in the opinion of this Court, further incarceration of the petitioner would not serve any purpose.

In view of the above, this petition is allowed. Petitioner is ordered to be released on bail, in this case, on his furnishing adequate bail bonds and surety bonds to the satisfaction of learned trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

The above observations may not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

(MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU)
JUDGE

May 21, 2020
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Whether speaking/ reasoned: Yes/No
Whether Reportable: Yes/No