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

CRM-M-9052-2020

Date of decision-18.08.2020

Lokender Singh Shekhawat

...Petitioner

Vs.

State of Haryana

...Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ BAJAJ

Present: Mr. Amandeep Rana, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Sukhdeep Parmar, DAG, Haryana.

MANOJ BAJAJ, J.

Petitioner has preferred this petition under Section 439 Cr.P.C for grant of regular bail pending trial in case FIR No.574 dated 14.06.2019 registered under Sections 406, 420 and 506 read with Section 34 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 at Police Station Sadar Gurugram. The petitioner is in custody since his arrest on 21.01.2020.

The present FIR was registered on the statement of complainant Narender Kumar, wherein it was stated that one deal was going on between his children and U.K. based company i.e. Ignovate Group, which was involved in preparing Herbal Private medicine containing salt of Eudesmazine liquid. The company had given the contact number of one lady

Lilyant, who had given the sample of the liquid at complainant's house. After checking the sample, the said company had sent one person, namely, Moris, who had taken the liquid as a sample. The Director of the company had demanded 40 liters of liquid and told the price of the liquid as 1.90 crores, but the complainant's children did not agree on price. The deal was settled for Rs.1.2 crores and asked them to come to Meghalya for the payment. As per complainant, the payment of Rs.1.20 crores was made in six different accounts. After that, the accused persons again demanded more money but the sons of complainant had refused to make the payment and asked to return the amount already paid on which, accused persons extended threat. On these broad allegations, the FIR was registered.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that case of the petitioner is at par with co-accused, namely, Sajjan Singh who has been released on regular bail vide order dated 21.11.2019 (Annexure P-3). He submits that the account of the petitioner was misused and he was not involved in the alleged crime. According to him, the investigation of the case is complete as the final report was filed on 13.03.2020. He has prayed for grant of regular bail during the pendency of the trial.

On the other hand, learned State counsel assisted by ASI Omkar Singh has not disputed this fact that the case of the petitioner is similar to his co-accused, namely, Sajjan Singh. It is pointed out that a sum of Rs.40 lakhs was deposited in his account whereas a sum of Rs.20 lakhs was deposited in the account of co-accused, which was later on withdrawn.

Considering the above background and custody of the

petitioner, this Court does not find any reason to decline the prayer of the petitioner particularly when the trial is likely to take considerable time to conclude as the country continues to be in the throes of global pandemic, namely, COVID-19. The petitioner after his arrest on 21.01.2020 is presently confined in judicial custody, therefore, his further detention behind the bars may not be justified.

Resultantly, without meaning any expression of opinion on the merits of the case, it is ordered that the petitioner be released on regular bail in the above case, subject to his furnishing requisite bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

The petition is allowed.

18.08.2020

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**(MANOJ BAJAJ)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned :	Yes	No
Whether Reportable :	Yes	No