

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT  
CHANDIGARH

Criminal Misc.-M-9969 of 2020

Date of Decision: October 12, 2020

Ramneet Singh

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ BAJAJ**

Present: Mr. Karan Sachdeva, Advocate for  
Mr. Gursimran Singh Madaan, Advocate,  
for the petitioner.

Mr. Luvinder Sofat, AAG, Punjab.

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**MANOJ BAJAJ, J. (Oral)**

Petitioner has filed this petition under Section 439 Cr.P.C. for grant of regular bail, pending trial in case FIR No.33 dated 10.03.2019, under Section 22 N.D.P.S.Act, 1985, registered at Police Station, Division No.4, Patiala, District Patiala. The petitioner is in custody since his arrest on 10.03.2019.

As per the allegations in the FIR, on 10.03.2019, the police party was present near Iqbal Inn Hotel SST Nagar, Patiala for the purpose of patrolling and checking of suspicious persons. Then ASI received a secret information that Ramneet Singh @ Lucky being habitual of consuming and selling intoxicating tablets would be coming on his white coloured activa bearing No.PB-11-BS-8761 from the side of Sanaur on the side of waste

water drain and towards old Rajpura Octroi post and upon barricading at old Rajpura Chungi Patiala near Wood Market, Patiala, he can be apprehended with heavy quantity of narcotic drugs. Later on, he was apprehended with 2050 intoxicating tablets. On these broad allegations, the above FIR was registered.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that only one witness has been examined by the prosecution so far out of the total twelve prosecution witnesses, therefore, the further custody of the petitioner may not be necessary, particularly when he is not involved in any other case of similar nature. According to him, the trial is likely to consume considerable time to conclude, therefore, concession of regular bail be extended to him.

On the other hand, learned State counsel assisted by ASI Chain Sukh has opposed the prayer on the ground that the recovered contraband falls within the ambit of commercial quantity. He submits that the petitioner is not involved in any other case of similar nature except in one case under the Gambling Act.

After hearing the learned counsel for the parties, this Court finds that after completion of the investigation, final report has been filed and the trial has commenced. It is apparent that the trial is progressing at a slow pace and this Court is cognizant of the fact that the outbreak of pandemic COVID-19 in the region may further delay the conclusion of trial. The petitioner is presently confined in judicial custody since his arrest on 10.03.2019 and his further detention may not be necessary for any useful purpose, therefore, this Court does not find any reason to decline the prayer.

Resultantly, without meaning any expression of opinion on the merits of the case, the petition is allowed and it is ordered that the petitioner

be released on regular bail subject to his furnishing requisite bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate, Patiala.

**October 12, 2020**  
**ramesh**

**( MANOJ BAJAJ )**  
**JUDGE**

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|----------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Whether speaking/reasoned</b> | <b>Yes/No</b> |
| <b>Whether Reportable:</b>       | <b>Yes/No</b> |