

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH.

CRM-M-11032 of 2020(O&M)
Date of Decision: 03.06.2020.

Joni Mehta

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

....Respondent.

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE LALIT BATRA

Present: Mr. Amit Choudhary, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Saurabh Mohunta, DAG, Haryana.

Lalit Batra, J.(Oral)

Case has been taken up for hearing through Video Conferencing.

Present petition under Section 439 Cr.P.C is for grant of regular bail to petitioner-**Joni Mehta** in case F.I.R. No.442 dated 28.10.2017 under Section 420 IPC registered at Police Station Sadar Fatehabad, District Fatehabad.

Learned counsel for the petitioner *inter alia* contends that petitioner has no nexus whatsoever with the alleged offence. He further submits that petitioner is in custody since 07.02.2020 and he is no more

required by the Police for any investigation purpose. He further urges that challan has already been presented in Court and since consequent trial of the case would take sufficient time to conclude, no useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioner in custody further and he may be released on bail.

On the other hand, learned State counsel while opposing instant petition has vehemently argued that keeping in view seriousness of offence, petitioner does not deserve the concession of bail.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties.

At this stage, without commenting anything on the merits of the case lest it may prejudice the outcome of the trial but taking into consideration the fact that petitioner is in custody since 07.02.2020; that challan has already been presented in Court and since consequent trial of the case would take sufficient time to conclude, no useful purpose would be served by detaining the petitioner in custody further, thus, he deserves the concession of bail.

In view of above, instant petition for grant of regular bail moved by petitioner-**Joni Mehta** is allowed and he is ordered to be released on bail on his furnishing personal/surety bonds to the satisfaction of Trial Court/Chief Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate, Fatehabad, as the case may be. However, petitioner has been given liberty to defer the furnishing of surety bond due to COVID-19 but he is directed to furnish the surety bond to the satisfaction of Trial Court/Chief

CRM-M-11032 of 2020 :3:

Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate, Fatehabad, as the case may be, on
culmination of nationwide lockdown due to COVID-19.

(LALIT BATRA)
JUDGE

03.06.2020

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Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether reportable : Yes/No