

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

CRM-M-12664-2020(O&M)

Date of decision: 23.09.2020

Raghav Mishra

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARNARESH SINGH GILL

Present:- Mr. Amardeep Singh, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Amit Mehta, Senior DAG Punjab.

HARNARESH SINGH GILL, J. (ORAL)

Case is taken up for hearing through video conferencing.

The petitioner has filed this petition under Section 439 of Cr.P.C. for grant of regular bail in case FIR No. 31 dated 14.02.2020 registered under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC (Section 465 IPC added subsequently) at Police Station B Division, District Amritsar City.

Learned counsel for the petitioner states that the petitioner has falsely been implicated in the present case on the basis of a secret information. The allegation against the petitioner is that he is involved in the business of preparing forged education certificates/degrees of various Universities and Colleges, but neither any forged and fabricated degree or certificate has been recovered from the petitioner, nor any evidence has come

on record against him. The petitioner has been in custody for the last more than 7 months and all the offences are triable by the learned Magistrate.

Learned State counsel points out that one laptop and printer-cum-scanner which were being used in preparing the forged certificates/degrees have been recovered from the petitioner but due to fear, nobody chose to come forward against the petitioner and which is why the FIR was registered on the basis of a secret information. After completion of investigation, the challan has already been presented. The petitioner has been in custody for the last more than 7 months and 5 day.

I have heard the learned counsel for the parties.

The petitioner has been in custody for the last more than 7 months and 5 days, challan has been presented, yet the trial will take time to conclude, especially due to prevailing situation of Covid-19. Thus, no useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioner behind the bars.

In view of the above, without commenting anything on the merits, lest it should prejudice the case of either side, the petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail to the satisfaction of the learned trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

(HARNARESH SINGH GILL)
JUDGE

23.09.2020

Mangal Singh

Whether reasoned/speaking?
Whether reportable?

Yes/No
Yes/No