

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA, CHANDIGARH

CRM-M No. 14154 of 2020

Date of decision : June 25, 2020

Narinder Singh @ Gopi

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and another

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

Present:- Mr. Raj Kumar Arya, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Lavinder Sofat, AAG., Punjab.

Manjari Nehru Kaul, J (oral).

On account of outbreak of covid-19 the instant matter is being taken up through video conferencing.

The present petition has been filed under Section 439 Cr.P.C for grant of regular bail to the petitioner, in case FIR No. 02 dated 5.01.2020 under Sections 363, 366-A, 376,120-B IPC and Section 4 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 registered at Police Station Sadar Gurdaspur, District Gurdaspur.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case as the family of the prosecutrix were averse to her friendship with the petitioner with whom she had started living after apprehending danger to her life and liberty from her parents. Infact, the petitioner and the prosecutrix had also approached this Court for the protection of their life and liberty. When the matter came up for hearing before this Court the prosecutrix expressed her desire not to accompany her parents, as a result of which she was directed by this Court to be admitted in Ashiyana, Sector 15, Chandigarh. However, subsequently

with the intervention of respectables the matter has been amicably settled between the parties.

On the other hand, learned State counsel while opposing the submissions made by learned counsel for the petitioner was unable to controvert the factum of the petitioner and the prosecutrix approaching this Court for the protection of their life and liberty. He has submitted that challan was filed on 5.3.2020, however thereafter on account of the outbreak of the pandemic, charges could not be framed on the date fixed.

In view of the submissions made by learned counsel for the petitioner and keeping in view the fact that the petitioner has been in custody since 25.1.2020 and the trial is unlikely to conclude in the near future, I deem it a fit case to grant the concession of regular bail to the petitioner. Therefore, without expressing anything on the merits of the case, the instant petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail to the satisfaction of the trial court/Duty Magistrate.

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

June 25, 2020

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Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether Reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No