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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-15603-2020
Date of Decision: 02.07.2020

Raj Kumar

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDIP AHLUWALIA

Present: Mr. Keshav Pratap Singh, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. Anant Kataria, DAG, Haryana.

SUDIP AHLUWALIA, J. (ORAL)

The instant petition has been filed under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure seeking regular bail in case FIR No.270 dated 30.04.2018, under Sections 363, 366-A and 376 of the IPC and Section 6 of POSCO Act, 2012, registered at Police Station Camp Palwal, District Palwal.

[2]. Ld. Counsel for the petitioner submits *inter alia* that the petitioner was arrested on 14.06.2019. The FIR as originally lodged, was drawn up under Section 346 of the IPC, and offences under Section 363, 366-A and 376 of the IPC and Section 6 of the POSCO Act, 2012 were added subsequently on the basis of material gathered during investigation.

[3]. Ld. State counsel does not dispute the above facts.

[4]. It transpires that in her Statement before the Child Welfare Committee on 03.05.2019 (Annexure P-1), the victim though a minor girl

had virtually exonerated all the accused persons by contending that she had voluntarily ran and resided with co-accused Rakesh, who happens to be the petitioner's brother-in-law.

[5]. In view of the fact that investigation has already been completed and challan submitted against the petitioner and co-accused persons, further detention of the petitioner for an indefinite period at this stage is not warranted since the trial itself is likely to take a substantial time on account of the prevailing Covid-19 Pandemic.

[6]. In view of the above, the petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail, subject to the appropriate terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Ld. Trial Court/Duty Magistrate, concerned.

[7]. Disposed off.

02.07.2020

Bhumika

**(SUDIP AHLUWALIA)
JUDGE**

1. Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No
2. Whether reportable: Yes/No