

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

**CRM-M No.16978 of 2020 (O&M)
Date of Decision.16.07.2020
(Heard through VC)**

Buta Singh

...Petitioner

Vs

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM:HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE JAISHREE THAKUR

Present: Mr. Rahul Rampal, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. J.S. Ghumman, AAG, Punjab.

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JAISHREE THAKUR J. (ORAL)

This is a petition that has been filed for grant of regular bail in case FIR No.13 dated 19.01.2018 under Section 401 IPC and Section 22 of NDPS Act, 1985 registered at Police Station Sangat, District Bathinda.

Counsel for the petitioner herein would contend that the petitioner has falsely been implicated in the aforementioned FIR as the petitioner was arrested after two months from the date of registration of the FIR. The petitioner is in custody since 23.01.2018. It is further contended that four similarly placed co-accused have already been granted regular bail by this Court vide Annexure P-2 to P-5 and therefore, he is entitled to concession of bail.

Learned counsel appearing for the respondent-State opposes the regular bail while contending that no ground is made out for granting concession of regular bail.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties.

Keeping in view the fact that petitioner is in custody since

23.01.2018 and four similarly placed co-accused have already been granted bail by this Court, coupled with the fact that the trial is likely to take some time to conclude as due to COVID-19 situation, Courts are not working at their full strength and not taking up regular hearing matters, no useful purpose would be served in keeping the petitioner behind the bars. The instant petition is allowed and the petitioner is directed to be released on regular bail on execution of adequate personal/ surety bond to the satisfaction of concerned trial Court/Duty Magistrate. However, any observation made herein shall not be construed to be an expression on merits of the case.

(JAISHREE THAKUR)
JUDGE

July 16, 2020
Pankaj*

Whether speaking/reasoned Yes/No

Whether reportable Yes/No