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

CRM-M No. 20160 of 2020  
Date of Decision: 10.08.2020

Mangal Singh

-Petitioner

Vs

State of Punjab

-Respondent

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJ MOHAN SINGH**

Present: Ms. Aashna Gill, Advocate,  
for the petitioner.

Mr. Hittan Nehra, Addl. A.G., Punjab.

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**RAJ MOHAN SINGH, J. (ORAL)**

The case has been taken up for hearing through video-conferencing.

Petitioner seeks grant of regular bail under Section 439 Cr.P.C. in case bearing FIR No.323 dated 07.12.2019 under Section 420 IPC registered at Police Station Civil Lines, District Police Commissionerate Amritsar.

Earlier, petitioner filed CRM-M No.1887 of 2020 for grant of anticipatory bail which was dismissed by this Court vide order dated 17.01.2020.

Petitioner is working as Block Development and Panchayat Officer.

Allegations are of duping money from handicapped persons on the false assurance of getting them appointed in Government Offices. Petitioner has not sought any permission from the competent authority for involving himself in the cause of representing the interest of handicapped persons by way of forming a society under the name and style of "Handicapped Welfare Union Punjab".

Some complaints were received against the petitioner.

Petitioner surrendered before the Court on 21.02.2020. He remained in custody upto 23.03.2020 i.e. the date on which he was granted interim bail, as per the recommendations of the High Powered Committee in COVID-19 situation. Interim bail was extended thereafter till date.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the offence alleged against the petitioner is in terms of Section 420 IPC.

Challan has been presented on 03.04.2020. Petitioner is not involved in any other case.

Offence is triable by the court of Magistrate.

Learned State counsel on instructions states that in view of recommendations issued by High Powered Committee, petitioner was released on interim bail by Judicial Magistrate Ist

Class, Amritsar on 29.03.2020 after having remained in custody for 01 month and 05 days.

As per custody certificate, the petitioner is not involved in any other case.

Having heard learned counsel for the parties, I find that the challan has been presented on 03.04.2020. Petitioner is lodged in Central Jail, Amritsar. The situation arising due to pandemic COVID-19 in Central Jail, Amritsar is glaring. Number of jail officers and administrative staff including inmates have been found to be infected with COVID-19. Even as per news publication, 4 DSPs (Jails), 6 Assistant Superintendents of Jail and over a dozen members of administrative staff were found to be infected with COVID-19. There are about 3500 prisoners in the jail. Many inmates have been released on bail due to spread of pandemic COVID-19, still more than 2300 prisoners are present in the jail premises.

Taking into account the wholesome of facts and circumstances of the case and without meaning anything on the merits of the case, I deem it appropriate to release the petitioner on regular bail, subject to his furnishing adequate bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of trial Court/concerned Duty Magistrate.

Nothing expressed hereinabove would be construed to be an opinion on the merits of the case.

10.08.2020  
*Jyoti Sharma*

**(RAJ MOHAN SINGH)**  
**JUDGE**

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