

**214 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH
(through video conferencing)**

CRM-M-20453-2020
Decided on : 11.08.2020

Jaswinder Singh

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

Present : Mr. R.S.Bains, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms. Rashmi Attri, AAG, Punjab.

Manjari Nehru Kaul, J.

Instant petition has been filed under Section 439 Cr.PC for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.243 dated 12.12.2007 registered under Sections 307, 364, 201, 148, 149 IPC and Sections 25, 27, 54 and 59 of Arms Act at Police Station Salem Tabri District Ludhiana.

Learned counsel for the petitioner inter alia contends that after the prosecution evidence had concluded and at the stage of recording of statement under Section 313 Cr.P.C. before the trial Court, the petitioner was under a mistaken belief that the trial had also concluded and hence, he stopped appearing before the trial Court. Resultantly, the petitioner was declared a proclaimed offender. However, subsequently he surrendered on 23.03.2020 and ever since then he has been behind bars. Learned counsel further contends that the trial qua the co-accused has already concluded and all of them stand acquitted by the trial Court on 14.10.2016.

Per contra, learned State counsel while opposing the prayer of learned counsel for the petitioner, on instructions from ASI Janak Raj, has admitted that the co-accused have since been acquitted by the trial Court vide judgment dated 14.10.2016.

Heard.

In view of the submissions made by learned counsel and the fact that the petitioner has been in custody since 23.03.2020, the trial is unlikely to conclude in the near future more so in the wake of outbreak of pandemic Covid-19. Hence, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner is admitted to bail to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate. However, it is made clear that anything observed hereinabove shall not be construed to be an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

11.08.2020
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Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether reportable :	Yes/No