

In the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, at Chandigarh

Criminal Misc. No. M- 21522 of 2020 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 28.10. 2020

Manpreet Singh alias Manna

... Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of Punjab

... Respondent(s)

CORAM: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kshetarpal.

Present: Mr. Lavanya Gupta, Advocate
for the petitioner(s).

Anil Kshetarpal, J.

This is fifth petition for grant of regular bail to the petitioner pending trial in a criminal case arising from FIR No. 8 dated 07.08.2018, registered under Section 21 of Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (hereinafter referred to as “the 1985 Act”) and Section 25 of the Arms Act, 1959, at Police Station STF, Phase-4, S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali.

As per the case of the prosecution, 290 grams of heroin was recovered from various accused. On 11.09.2020, when the Deputy Advocate General, Punjab made a statement on the basis of an affidavit that the petitioner stands convicted in two cases under the 1985 Act, Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner stated that the petitioner has been acquitted and never convicted. He sought time to justify the stand taken, hence, the case was adjourned.

Today, learned counsel for the petitioner has admitted that his statement on 11.09.2020 was factually incorrect and the petitioner has been convicted under NDPS Act 1985 in two criminal cases i.e. FIR No. 96 dated

25.08.2002 and FIR No. 96 dated 20.08.2011.

Learned counsel for the State has further pointed out that the petitioner is a habitual offender involved in eight cases including the present one. He has further pointed out that the prosecution has already recorded the deposition of 18 witnesses, out of 22 witnesses proposed to be examined.

Keeping in view the advance stage of the trial of the case, no ground to grant the concession of regular bail is made out. Hence, the present petition is dismissed. Learned counsel for the petitioner has been requested to remain careful in future.

(Anil Kshetarpal)
Judge

October 28, 2020

“DK”

Whether speaking/reasoned :Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No