

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

217

CRM-M-21461-2020

Date of decision : 13.08.2020.

Satnam Singh alias Sattu

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.. Respondent

CORAM :HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL

Present:- Mr. Ankit Kharbanda, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Dhruv Dayal, Senior DAG, Punjab.

Anupinder Singh Grewal, J. (Oral)

The petitioner is seeking regular bail in FIR No.0021 dated 21.07.2019, under Sections 22, 61 and 85 of the NDPS Act, registered at Police Station Khem Karan, District Tarn Taran.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that it is alleged in the FIR that 780 tablets of alprazolam with a total weight of 115.44 grams were recovered from the petitioner which is marginally above the threshold of commercial quantity. He also contends that the petitioner is in custody for over a year since his arrest on 21.07.2019 and is not involved in any other case under the NDPS Act. He has also relied upon the judgment of the Coordinate Bench of this Court in the case of **Gagandeep Singh @ Gagan Vs. State of Punjab** in CRM-M-29059-2018 decided on 14.11.2018 wherein recovery of Alprazolam was about 200 grams and the petitioner therein had been granted regular bail after 01 year and 04 months.

Learned State counsel, upon instructions from ASI Major Singh, states that although challan has been filed but none of the prosecution witnesses has been examined. He also contends that the petitioner is in custody for 01 year and 21 days and is not involved in any other case under the NDPS Act.

Heard through video conferencing.

In view of the submissions of the learned counsel for the petitioner, especially when the petitioner is in custody for over a year; he is not involved in any other case under the NDPS Act; the COVID-19 pandemic and the conclusion of the trial is likely to take some time, I deem it a fit case to grant the concession of regular bail to the petitioner.

Therefore, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, the instant petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing requisite bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

(ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL)
JUDGE

August 13, 2020

sonia gugnani

Whether speaking/reasoned	:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable	:	Yes/No