

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

CRM-M-21810-2020
Decided on : 16.09.2020

Harsimrjit Singh @ Kalu

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

Present : Mr. Ashish Gupta, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. S.P.S.Tinna, Addl. AG, 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.106 dated 14.05.2014 registered under Section 61 of the Excise Act, 1914 at Police Station City Kotkapura, District Faridkot.

Learned counsel for the petitioner inter alia contends that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the FIR in question. The petitioner is in custody for the last more than 11 months and the prosecution evidence has not yet concluded. He further contends that due to the outbreak of pandemic, the trial is unlikely to conclude in the near future. Hence, it has been prayed that concession of bail be extended to the petitioner.

Per contra, learned State counsel while opposing the prayer of learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the petitioner had absented himself from the proceedings on 13.06.2018 and could be arrested after he was declared a proclaimed offender on 18.04.2019. He was arrested thereafter on 05.10.2019.

Heard.

In view of the submissions made by learned counsel and the fact that the petitioner has been in custody since 05.10.2019, 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 the bail to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Illaq Magistrate on his furnishing bail bonds of heavy amount with two sureties. This direction has been issued in the wake of his past conduct.

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

16.09.2020
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Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether reportable :	Yes/No